UNDER THE ASHES OF THE STORMY WAR

SECRETS OF THE IRAQI WAR

Fifty trustworthy eyewitnesses' accounts of the aggressive war against Iraq within 43 days from 20th March to 1st May, 2003

Hot memories and eyewitness account of the age's crime: The horrors Baghdad and its surroundings witnessed during the American invasion of Iraq

By
ALAULDEEN Al-MUDARRES

Translated by
Dr. Sawsan Saleh

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In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Beneficent

Introduction

Today, Monday, April14, 2003, is the day in which I preferred to start writing and recording certain painful memories about the days of the American aggression and its destructive war against my country, Iraq. The Americans came under an illegal, unethical and uncultural pretext: freedom and democracy; and disarming the Iraqi regime of the mass-destructive weapons. That autocratic regime led by Saddam and his party for more than 30 years has led the country to its present condition. It had no pluralism, no institutions and no constitution. However, such a condition does not give a reason or a legitimate cover for the invasion and destruction which we witnessed during the past three weeks.

Now we are on the verge of the end of this war, which I suppose to be tomorrow for the last castle of the Ba'thi regime, Tikreet, has fallen today, Monday, April 14, in the hands of the Anglo-American Coalition. Six days after the fall of Saddam's regime last Wednesday, now could be the suitable time for recording certain memories, ideas, analyses and eyewitnesses

accounts of what happened during the war. These could be live, sensible and, probably, accurate accounts of what we saw, here in Baghdad: aggressive military operations, air bombing and shelling that did not differentiate between civilians and militants, destruction of the infrastructure and the essential services of the country. Such acts, which all humans will be ashamed of, were all done but to bring forth the announced American aims: to loot Iraqi crude oil and treasures, to give Israel peace of mind after destroying the strongest Arab power and the greatest opposing culture to the Israeli future plan for the region and, finally, to open the gate for military and economic globalization to terrorize countries all over the world.

The strategy practised by America in its propaganda and military operations during this dirty war could be considered the most dangerous and harmful one in hiding the truth of the Iraqi heroic resistance and viability against the aggression. Irrespective of their stands with regard to the ruling regime, all Iraqi nationalities, races and religions took part in that resistance. Thus, writing about this subject is vital from the informative, recording and historic aspects. The public opinion will be informed of the lies and jugglery of these aggressors

whose approach was to take hold of the world's resources and to terrorize it so that money, mass media and power be theirs and their henchmen will also be clear.

I hope, therefore, that this effort will gain its due informative importance and effect from the Arab and international public opinion. I shall depend solely on memory, eyewitnesses and field inspection without reference to written literature, mass media or journalists who have started to wander about the country after overthrowing the previous regime and its party. Mainly, it is a fieldwork, and therefore, the accuracy of the information and events mentioned here is high from a fieldwork and verbal communication perspective. Mistakes in the timing of the events and wars are, yet, possible because they depend on my near memory and on the eyewitnesses of most of the wars that took place on the Iraqi field. God knows that I write these memories under bad conditions using an oil lamp because of the cut electricity. I go round Baghdad and its suburbs which have been shelled and witnessed great wars such as Doura, Sayyidiya, Amiriyya, Mansour, Baladiyyat, Taji, Sha'ab, Rashidiyya and Adhamiyya. I talked with tens of

trustworthy civilians and militant eyewitnesses from these areas in addition to other Iraqis.

The scenes and events which have been recorded and told represent, in fact, the Iraqi laymen viewpoints of the war. These are taken from what the eyewitnesses, who have been selected from all the groups and places, told. Thus, they express the feelings, grieves and analyses of the stories and events which are passing from mouth to mouth in all the cities and towns which have suffered from the aggression. They also reflect the unconscious and spontaneous reflections of a person who lived the days of the war minute by minute and who tried to give an image of his impressions and opinions of a foreign tyrannical power which tried to invade his country under any pretext. An image that represents the viewpoints and beliefs of people around him who shared the same event. These accounts reveal also the deep effects and hard memories which are left in the minds as a result of the invasion that has come to exchange the darkness of injustice with the darkness of subjection and colonisation.

Although I am sure that this is the first book of its type about the subject of the war in Iraq, other books written by other

authors will be published to deal with this topic from different aspects and they will enrich the Arabic library with every detail of this unjust and stormy war. At the same time, I shall be grateful to the noble reader if he provides me with his notes, comments and information about the events that took place during the war and which serve the purpose of the book. One of the prominent purposes of this book is to enhance the trust in the abilities of this great people and its withstanding against the injustice of the abominable occupation. It also aims at restoring the Iraqi awareness and letting Iraqis think the mistakes and faults over to find out the truth. Thus, they may learn and gain wisdom from these events to be able to overcome the obstacles and avoid repeating the same mistakes, which resulted mainly from ignorance and injustice. I am waiting for more pictures and events that can be added to this work so that the forthcoming editions will be more perfect than the present one. May God grant me accomplishment.

ALAULDEEN SH. ALMUDARRES

Rabee' Al-'Awwal 12, 1424 AH

May 13, 2003 AD

Preface

For the Iraqis, the week that preceded the war was a hectic, active and eventful one. During that period, those who decided to run away from the inferno of the war might have exceeded one million persons. They preferred to go to Syria and certain other bordering countries after listening to the disconcerting news spread by the American president, Bush, in addition to his threats. Moreover, during that week, fleets reached the Arab Gulf with the beating of war drums getting higher after starting in the previous summer. Nothing quenched the thirst of the American leaders other than that illegal aggression and invasion in spite of the American success in making the Security Council issue resolution no. 1441 and resuming the search for weapons which, definitely, served the American espionage strategy. America lost the second round of its diplomatic war when it failed to make the majority of the Security Council members agree to strike Iraq after the end of the specified period for searching in last middle February because it could not prove the existence of the mass-destructive weapons in Iraq as claimed by Bush and Blair. However, America's tyranny, arrogance and belief in the divinity of itself and its model were not to be appeased. The new and illegal

logic was that the accused Iraq should prove his innocence and submit evidences that the alleged weapons did not exist. The decision to strike was taken and Saddam was given 48 hours to prove his innocence.

The war, thus, started without any legal, international or even European cover. France led the opposing-the-illegal-war party made of Germany, Russia and most of the other European countries. At the beginning of the war, two poles appeared. The first pole represented America and Britain who held the banner of globalization and the new international system. They believed in the one-pole notion, i.e., in ruling the world by using the tyrannical power and in belittle the roles of the Security Council and the United Nations. On the other pole, there was old Europe who defended pluralism, legitimacy, respect of law and states' sovereignty; it also emphasised the importance of reference to international organisations, on the top of which was the UN and International Security Council, to settle international conflicts. Europe defended the civilised approach which considers legitimacy, peace and human rights among its main concerns. France and German recalled Hitler's image and his tyranny and identified him with present America led by Bush

who dominates absolutely the international opinion decision. They also feared the American domination over the international crude oil reservoir and, as a result, over the international economy. In spite of this firm international stand, USA decided to take action tempted by its super power, the great Iraqi treasures, Britain, Spain and Australia's coalition with it and the rigidity of the Iraqi diplomacy and its paralysis as a result of the autocratic dictator rule. The Coalition Forces bet on the religious and racial conditions in Iraq and made use of them to divide the Iraqis and to deal out the result of the war in their favour quickly. The embargo, which ate out the country within the hard years that followed Bush senior's war, was another temptation for the USA to strike. Violating flagrantly the international law, depreciating the role of the UN and ISC, despising the Arabs and Muslims' feelings while accusing them in their Zionist mass media of being the cause of international terrorism, the Anglo-American coalition started the unjust war. Using all possible means, that media resorted to the psychological war that raised that slogan "shock and horror" for this big war to overwhelm the whole world and impose globalization and the new international system. Afghanistan has been the first country, and then Iraq, the rest of Asia, Africa and

finally, Europe will be the ultimate result of this overpowering strategy carried on by America.

It is worth mentioning that I listened to a cassette of a recorded Friday sermon by Sheikh Yousif Al-Qaradawi recited on 14th March, 2003, the Friday preceding the war, which was dedicated totally to the war on Iraq. He exposed the Aggressive Zionist American plan, its background and the expected dangerous associations in case the war broke and Iraq was defeated by the Coalition Forces. I have distributed that sermon among people during the first days of the war to warn them against the possible dangers of the Zionist American invasion. I also come across an essay written in Al-Jazeera.net site entitled "Bush: Religious Zeal Trespasses Political Insight" by the Mauritani writer Muhammad Mukhtar Ash-Shanqiti and another essay by an American writer called Lendin entitled "The American Moral Blindness." The two essays deal with the Zionist influence on America and the Zionist plan to make American Christian Protestants Zionist Jews and to invade the Arab east to consolidate the Israeli security. The Zionists and Zionist Protestants claim that these will pave the way to the appearance of the Messiah. President Bush and many of

American political ruling figures believe in this. The 11th of September events and what followed them which led to accusing the Muslims of being terrorists have consolidated this American logic and approach whether by believing in them or by utilising them to achieve the American interests in the Arab and Islamic world. During the war, I tried my best to distribute these two essays to consolidate the internal front, to mobilise, to intensify the destructive danger in all its forms and to encourage the Muslims to take a firm stand. I did so in spite of my and many other Muslims' conviction that the flag flown during the war was not an Islamic one and that Saddam and his party did not give the Muslims any chance to defend the country; they did not trust them and they did not give them any weapon till the last moment of that regime. Yet, my religious and patriotic duties call for opposing and fighting the invasion and enemy by all means including the use of truthful words, enlightening and encouragement. Our motto was God's Quranic verse "Remember your Lord inspired the angels (with the message): 'I am with you: give firmness to the believers: I will instil terror into the hearts of the unbelievers: Smite you above their necks and smite all their finger-tips off them'" (Al-Anfal, 12). If the regime did not allow Jihad and fighting with weapons, at least

we can fight with words and encourage the fighters to take a firm stand against the enemy and its invasion.

Launching the War against Iraq

Early on Thursday at 5 a.m. and after a short ultimatum, the unjust war started. After hearing the wham of the bombing and shelling, we heard the siren. All through the day and the following days, the bombing continued. Special Iraqi TV broadcasting started covering the war at 8 a.m. We heard Saddam's short and enthusiastic speech at 8.30 a.m. Iraqi media started to encourage the people with enthusiastic national songs. Then, the first statement was issued to announce the beginning of the barbaric American attack upon Um Qasr, a small town on the Iraq-Kuwait border. Attacking Fao and Basra from the Kuwaiti borders, the Anglo-American forces started to flow. After two days of fierce fighting in Um Qasr and Fao, in which the Iraqi army showed courageous resistance and heroic defiance to that barbaric invasion which had neither real nor truthful bases, the Americans and British found the small Iraqi gates in Um Qasr and Fao extremely formidable in the face of the armies with their advanced and highly technological weapons. They had thought that the south of Iraq will receive them with stretched, full of flowers arms. Instead, they were received with bullets and hearts full of belief in their cause.

Thus, they decided to leave Fao and Um Qasr and take their mercenaries to Basra, the great city of history, civilization and oil. Still, they faced the same image they saw in the two previous towns. Basri Tribes, soldiers and Fidaiyyin resisted and inflicted great losses upon the enemy. In the evening of Saturday, the Iraqi military statement mentioned the British army's advance toward Basra. In the morning of Sunday, March 23, 2003, a ferocious war took place between the Coalition Forces and the Iraqis in which the Iraqis fought heroically and inflicted huge losses upon the Special Forces (mercenaries) and the British forces: armours, planes and soldiers.

As for Baghdad and the other cities in the depth of the Iraqi area, air bombing and shelling never stopped nor abated. Dear Baghdad was soughing under more than 1600 strikes of bombing and shelling every day. A considerable amount of these strikes hit civilians, utility establishments, administrative offices, hospitals, houses, streets and shops. They took place in most of the capital's quarters and suburbs: in Doura, Amiriyya, Sumer, Adhamiyya, Sha'ab, etc. in addition to bombing the posts of the Republican Guards, military leaders, and Fidaiyyin

around Baghdad, hundreds of civilians, women, children and old people died.

Um Qasr Battle

On the first day of the war, the Um-Qasr Battle took place. The Coalition Forces launched their land attack against Iraq from the Kuaiwti borders facing the town of Um Qasr. In spite of the small size of this village and port, Iraqis did not allow it to be an easy prey for the invaders. The army positioned there fought and resisted heroically and it inflicted great losses upon the enemy. Taking into consideration those losses, the enemy resorted to information blackout. Um Qasr was able to resist for 17 days. Divisions 11 and 51 were the weakest divisions in the Iraqi army, however, they were able to defeat the Coalition Forces and stop their attack. In Basra, Nasiriyya and Najaf, the bravery and resistance were even more shocking for the enemy.

Sand Storm Days

Burning crude oil near Baghdad’s walls and around the large cities was one of the Iraqi defense strategies to distract the Coalition Forces’ radars, monitoring instruments and planes. I do not know the benefit of this strategy from a military perspective for I am not qualified for this. However, in the first two weeks of the war, it seemed that it distracted the enemy’s ability to strike its targets, to maneuver and to calculate efficiently its measures on the ground. Just like cowards, the enemy was forced to be content with keeping its forces in the desert and to keep away from entering the Iraqi cities after colliding with the courageous Iraqis who were defending their cities. That was quite evident after the great resistance and ferocious wars that took place in Nasiriyya in which the enemy was made to suffer from great losses. The American media was keen not to mention these losses except for one tenth in order not to provoke the public, international American and British opinions; especially after the opposition call against the war and aggression got louder inside America, Europe and the rest of the world. What is more, the divine support was clear in encouraging the soldiers and Iraqi people. God’s soldiers were

ready to destroy the enemy's equipment, weaken and horrify its ranks. That took place after the sand storm and the fierce winds that blew for whole three days. The Iraqis were, therefore, able to move their forces and attack the invading forces spread to the west of Euphrates in the desert that extends all along the Saudi-Iraqi borders. That divine support had the greatest moral as well as material effect on the Iraqi steadfastness. It was, on the other hand, an evil omen and avenging spirit that followed the Coalition Forces with their equipment and machines. The Iraqi steadfastness was put on an equal stand with the enemy in spite of the inequality between the forces and abilities of the two parties.

Battles of Basra, Nasiriyya, Najaf and Ramadi

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were very hard on the aggressors to the extent that Bush, Blair, Ramsfield and those who plotted with them were horrified. Wars took place in Anbar, Rutba, Qa'im, Najaf and Karbala. The invaders failed to implement their evil plans of entering the cities. Those factors disrupted the ranks of coalition greatly, especially their leaders to the extent that Bush and Blair had to meet three times within the first ten days of the war.

Successive defeats and great losses were inflicted in their forces till Saturday, March 29, particularly in the heroic Battles of Nasiriyya and Najaf. In Nasiriyya Battle, twenty choppers type Abbatchi and Cobra were shot down, hundreds of tanks and carriers were destroyed in addition numerous casualties were inflicted. The military field stand remained to the Iraqi side. In spite of its limited capabilities, the Iraqi media was more truthful and precise than the American one, which depended on imagination, expectation, malinformation and disinformation. It hid the truth from the world till the moment in which the *shock*

and horror plan was to take place, a moment at which they dreamed that the expected quick Iraqi collapse and the blitz krieg planned by Bush and his conspirators would come in no more than three days. When the Americans realized their false expectations, disparity and contradiction appeared in their statements. With the end of the next week, they started to talk about the change in their previous plans. As a result of the actual defeats, the coalition faced what they did not expect or wish to see in Basra, Nasiriyya, Simawa, Najaf, Karbala', Anbar and Al-Ba'aj town in Mousil. Numerous landings in Rutba, Yousifiyya, and Karbala' failed. The Coalition Forces had to retreat as a result of the great unexpected losses which amounted to thousands of casualties and prisoners and hundreds of tanks, armours and carriers. Suicidal operations increased considerably in Najaf, Nasiriyya, and Anbar, especially after martyr Ali Nu'man operation in Najaf. The decent Iraqi media could not communicate all those facts to the world as a result of its limited abilities, bad administration, and the restrictions imposed by the invading forces on the independent and neutral press channels. That was the outset for the foul play of giving up Iraq treacherously and aborting its heroic and unprecedented resistance. In spite of the despotic regime, which prohibited lots

of the honest people to participate practically in the fighting, and the hesitation of some people to fight with the Ba'this who did not represent them, the army, Iraqi and Arab Fidaiyyin, civilians and tribes in southern, western and northern Iraq fought during the first two weeks like one formidable and influential force. Many eyewitnesses from the army and people told me that hundreds of American POW were exposed in front of the people to be seen in Nasiriyya, Basra and Anbar. Those POW were detained in special places till they receive the orders concerning them. A trustworthy eyewitness told me that during the landing in the first week to the west of Anbar between Rutba and Qa'im, 50 Americans were killed and 70 imprisoned. The POW were detained by Albu-Nimir tribe who refused to give them to the government because of an old quarrel between them and the authorities. Saddam was, therefore, obliged to reconcile them and thank them for their bold act. That also happened in Nasiriyya where many American soldiers were taken prisoners after An-Nasiriyya Battle. Another eyewitness told me about hundreds of dead Americans whose heads were threw in front of Saddam in Baghdad. They were killed in the Fidaiyyin operations that took place in different fighting positions.

Much ado took place about displaying the American POW film. The enemy claimed that Iraq violated the Geneva POW Convention and the American POW rights. As a result, exposing the POW in the TV or announcing their number became a critical subject in the Iraqi media. It was believed that Saddam ordered to kill all the captured prisoners to get rid of them, of their information problems and of the American accusations.

The martyrdom seeking operations were numerous, however, the Iraqi media was not capable to cover them all, except for those which were acknowledged by the enemy. They took place near the large cities and the most famous of which was that performed by the brave martyr Ali Ja'far Mousa Anu'man on Saturday, March 29 in Najaf in which he killed 11 Americans and destroyed 2 tanks and 2 carriers. He drove his car bomb and exploded it amongst the enemy's vehicles and soldiers. The Americans admitted that operation and mentioned it in their international press. Moreover, on Monday, March 31 in Karbala, the Iraqi farmer Ali Lafta landed a chopper with his small arm (Berno rifle); an operation which the American media tried to raise doubts about after occupying Baghdad in an

attempt to spread the American story about it in order to deny any Iraqi heroic act. Another heroic suicidal operation was performed on Friday, April 4, early in the third week of the war, in Ramadi by the two female martyrs Nousha Ash-Shammari and Widad Ad-Dulaimi who killed and wounded a number of the Coalition Forces soldiers.

A trustworthy Basri eyewitness told me about some of the events that took place in Basra during the war and after the regime had fallen. He said, "On the second day of the attack, the British desecrated the land of Az-Zubair bin Al-'Awwam and Al-Hasan Al-Basri (Az-Zubair town) and they faced what they did not expect from the people who revere the truth. Those people resisted that desecration violently with their simple weapons: they burned some of the enemy's vehicles, kidnapped some of the aggressors and slaughtered others, a matter that horrified the enemies."

Another example of the heroic steadfastness was that of Rashid tribe in Fao who kept on defending their town courageously that everybody praised them for that.

In Um Qar, an initial war took place between the marine infantries and the British forces. The British started the war by heavy bombing and shelling, yet the Iraq forces did never move. Thinking that the Iraqi infantries and marines were all killed, The British forces came forward. At that time, the Iraqi forces came out of their positions and a fierce war eventuated between them. The Iraqis were victorious and they inflicted on the British great losses while the rest of the British retreated.

In Basra, the British remained on the outskirts of the city, specifically, on Az-Zubair bridge, where they could not advance to the city for two weeks for the Iraqi and Arab Fidaiyyin stopped them. Unfortunately, some of the leading members in the ruling party with the help of some spies agreed with the British to surrender Basra without fighting. That could very rigorously befall because the courageous civilians and Fidaiyyin resisted fiercely. An example of the Arab Fidaiyyin courage was that one of them tied his feet to prevent himself from retreating. He hit the enemy, burned a tank and a carrier and then died. That was in Hamdan Battle which was named after the area called so. Trustworthy people told us that there was a traitor, a woman who was loyal to the enemy on the pretext that

she hated Saddam, who shot the Fidaiyyin, and then she was killed by their fire. People were horrified in that area as a result of that aimless shooting.

When the invading forces entered the city, some of the laymen who were not aware of the difference between truth and falsehood, started to hail and laugh with the soldiers. Most of the people, however, were firm and did not fear falsehood. Some remained in their homes and started to weep, and others could not believe what was happening. Another group resorted to Al-Farouq mosque in Janeena and started to weep till the people, who hailed the enemy, felt ashamed of themselves and of their reception to the enemy and retreated back to their homes.

After the invasion, the catastrophe came and chaos took hold. Lack of security overwhelmed the city with the absence of law, morals and religion. Looting of the government offices took place. I emphasize government offices for no instances of stealing persons were recorded except for very rare cases. Only government offices, establishments and stores were looted. In the middle of all that incontinence, there were instances of people with noble morals and honest principles: the people of

Saymer stood in the street in front of the Old Court in Basra and started throwing stones at the looters. They broke their cars and luggage till they left them behind and escaped.

The religious scholars started to urge people to recall God and give back the stolen things to their places. People listened and brought back the things to the mosques and Husainis (Shiite mosques). After that, the patriots started to rebuild the country and its establishments.

Failure of the First Shock and Horror Plan

Early in April, changes in the American field and information plan were made. The American media plan depended basically on misinformation and reducing the losses to the minimum. This plan was difficult to apply as a result of the huge losses in the cities' wars and in the Fidaiyyin's operations. Another reason was the neutral journalists who communicated a considerable number of facts, a matter that disturbed the Americans and did not go in line with their evil plan. Thus, the Coalition Forces leadership decided to assign a marginal role to the American Secretary of Defense, Ramsfield, and to assign the leadership of the army to the Chief of General Staff. It also decided to limit the European and Arab neutral media to the extent of shelling the Press Centre in Baghdad and killing a number of journalists, among whom is Al-Jazeera Channel correspondent, Tariq Ayoub. They decided to conspire against the Iraqi media and expose it as a mis-informing and mal-informing one by using the Holywood tactics, the last of which was the story of the airport in which the Iraqi Minister of Information, Muhammad Saed As-Sahhaf was deceived severely (as will be mentioned below). They also hit the Iraqi

information media in the heart by bombing them hysterically for several times. The Iraqi field commanders in the army and the Republican Guard were contacted and warned against the dangers of facing the invading forces. They were threatened to be sued as criminals of war. Some of the opposing leaders were brought in the southern Iraqi towns, which the Coalition Forces could not enter. Their task was to enfeeble the inner front and spread doubts in the ability of the regime and its army to steadfast. They were also ordered to recruit spies and traitors and spread them in the important public facilities. Those spies were equipped with specialized instruments to pinpoint the essential targets to be bombed to speed-up doing with the regime and its roots. Some believe that the number of the spies and traitors recruited by the Coalition Forces amounted to 5000. There was a general alarm in the intelligence to prepare for the death-blow. During the third week on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the Iraqi regime was hit by that death-blow in the airport, Mansour district and the Republican Palace. The enemy resorted to that plan after they lost all hope to withstand the Iraqi resistance on land. Just like any coward invader, the Americans avoided entering the cities and getting in contact with the army, guards and Fidaiyyin. Afraid of being killed by

the Iraqis, the invaders used to roam in the desert. They hid in their armoured vehicles and depended on their extremely superior air forces and missiles. This characteristic is highlighted in the Glorious Quran when it talks about the fight between the believers and such aggressors: “They will not fight you together except in fortified townships, or from behind walls. Strong is their fighting (spirit) amongst themselves: you would think they were united, but their hearts are divided. That is because they are a people devoid of wisdom.” (Al-Hashr, 14). In addition, the sand storm had the worst effect on them for they were blinded and led astray, and their instruments were affected badly too.

Another fact that revealed the American media deception was that the American recruited more than 150 thousand mercenaries, who represent more than half the US army that came to invade Iraq.

This fact has been affirmed by the Americans themselves who stated that they were mercenaries who did not hold the American nationality, or who were thieves or criminals and that they joined these special forces to be paid high salaries on two conditions. First, their death was not to be announced by the

American government, and second, their families did not have the right to know their fate if they were to be killed. Another aspect that characterizes the American Forces spread in the Gulf is that they have numerous divisions which are allocated for evacuation and battle field recovery. As soon as a war is over or their soldiers or armours are defeated, these divisions hurry to evacuate everything on the ground: casualties, machinery, armours, planes, etc., and thus, there would be no need to announce any of them. With this secret plan, they succeeded in convincing the world that they lost no more than 150 dead soldiers and a number of wounded prisoners. Such an action reveals the Cowboy mentality and imagination that motivate and promise them to control the whole world under the pretense that they are formidable. Their message was that their casualties were imperceptible in comparison with their foe's ones and that they have great aims to fulfill. Thus, the American public opinion has been deceived by the American power myth created by their leaders' approach which depends on deception and great media tricks. Definitely, if this deceptive technique is not deterred, America and the whole world will be led to a horrible catastrophe in the coming era. This is because it has no noble value or a civilized principle whatsoever other than glorifying

might which is always right in the American mentality. The Americans want to deceive people through controlling over international media and resources.

Saddam's Preparations to Prolong the War

There were numerous manifestations that indicate to the Iraqi regime solidarity and power within the first two weeks of the war. I myself saw on Monday morning April 7, 2003 documents issued by the Central Bank of the rewards which Saddam assigned to anybody who killed an invader, shot down an airplane or rocket or destroyed a tank, armour or carrier. Some of those documents were signed on Monday, April 7. Moreover, the public facilities, such as the ones that provide electricity, water and gasoline, kept on functioning normally without even being crowded or stopped. I myself filled my car from the gas station on Monday, April 7, from Mansour station near the Central Market. In addition, the artificial smokestacks made by burning crude oil around Baghdad went on till after Monday. Military statements and media conferences held by the Ministers of Information and Trade continued till Tuesday morning.

In the second week of the war, Saddam sent letters, which were read by the Minister of Information, issued statements and promised to give many rewards. One of these letters was

addressed to the Kurdish leader Jalal Al-Talbani in which he warned him against overindulging in following the invading forces and cooperating with them to occupy Mosul and Kerkuk as long as Saddam, who was still in control, represented the Iraqi central authority. He sent a reply letter, which was intended to give moral support to the Iraqi women, addressed to his niece Thurayya Barazan. He nicknamed her Um-Ahlam (Ahlam's mother) to emphasize his paternal role to all Iraqi women. The letter also emphasized the importance of preventing the Coalition Forces from entering Baghdad or passing through its walls. That would not happen except on passing on our bodies. These two letters were broadcasted on Monday and Tuesday, March 31 and April 1. Yet, one week after these letters, the situation turned topsy turvy. Suddenly, Baghdad was occupied. As for Saddam, he was seen for the last time on Sunday, April 6 in the afternoon in different places such as Mansour, Adhamiyya and Hayfa Street. The Iraqi TV, which had broadcasted Saddam's second speech on Monday, March 24, in the first week of the war, broadcasted that tour. After that, Saddam did not appear in Baghdad except in the last days of his rule on Wednesday and Thursday. Then, he did not appear as a president, but as an unfortunate gang leader with a

number of cars and probably more than 100 Fidaiyyins. He appeared in Abu Hanifa Mosque at about 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9. Some of the people of Adhamiyya saw him, among whom were some of my friends, especially Abu-Du'a who shook hands with and embraced him while Saddam was telling him, "You people of Adhamiyya are brave." I also met with more than ten other trustworthy witnesses who saw and talked to him on that day. It is worth mentioning that Saddam did not give any considerable and real thing to Adhamiyya other than his fortified presidential palace which was overtaken by the Americans and made one of their bases after Baghdad's occupation. He had never visited it during his rule. However, he preferred to spend his last days there. He had been seen in the dawn of Thursday in one of Adhamiyya's small mosques, Bishr Al-Hafi near Abu Hanifa mosque, and after that he disappeared. His presence with the Fidaiyyin in Adhamiyya was an essential cause for shelling it and for destroying the minaret of Abu Hanifa mosque. As a result, tens of civilians and men seeking martyrdom were killed and many buildings, shops and cars were destroyed. We heard, though we could not affirm what we heard, the news of Saddam's participation in the fighting with the Fidaiyyin who accompanied him in many

Battles in Mansour, Itaifiyya and Adhamiyya on Thursday and Friday in addition to other previous wars that took place in Yarmouk, An-Nusoor square and the presidential palace. I myself heard the sound of bullets of Itaifiyya Battle without being able to make sure that Saddam participated in the fighting.

I can affirm, as some eye-witnesses affirmed to me, that the moment in which Baghdad surrendered, Saddam was defeated with his regime and chaos took over was in the hour that followed the bombing of the place where Saddam was to meet with the members of his leadership in Mansour behind As-Sa'a restaurant in 14 Ramadhan street on Tuesday noon, April 8. I saw that place with my own eyes on Sunday, April 13 after it was bombed and destroyed. After that decisive event in the Iraqi history, Saddam emerged from the rumbles of the house, which was completely destroyed as a result of the sudden and severe bombardment that was instantiated by one of the traitors from the army leaders. He dusted his military uniform while he was unaware that he was dusting away his rule and control over management of affairs. Suddenly, he turned to an ordinary layman who was not different from any other helpless Iraqi. This is God's might and fate which turn a king to a beggar and

vice versa by just saying “Be” and he will be as destined to be. A king, then, is turned to a humble servant in an eyewink. He gives power to whom He pleases and strips off power from whom He pleases; and He endues with honour whom He pleases and brings low whom He pleases. In Your Hands is all Good. Verily You have power over all things. Will people, rulers and princes be preached by these crucial events and changes which God’s fate had destined for Iraq and its ruler, who had never imagined that sad end.

Before tackling Baghdad’s Battle, we can say that Saddam has left our world exactly as he has entered it: an unfortunate, brave, domineering and so obstinate man. He left his great reign in the destructive hands of looters, criminals and opportunists. His great mansion collapsed in front of his enemies. For him, there was no way to share Iraq with anybody else, and when he had to leave, it had to be trash in the hands of his enemies. Once his reign secret protectors, who brought him to the presidential chair and who stirred up enmity between him and his greatest neighbour Iran, now they are his enemies who betrayed him after he occupied Kuwait in spite of the fact that

they were the ones who pushed him to enter the heaven of Kuwait.

It is interesting to mention that on Tuesday, April 15, I went round the districts and allies of Baghdad in both Karkh and Rasafa and found that no photograph or statue of Saddam was left intact: they were either destroyed or deformed, whereas the statue of his predecessor, Ahmad Hasan Al-Bakr in Al-Mansour remained intact: proud with its hand stretched to help the Iraqis in their arduous adversity.

Saddam believed that his regime was able to withstand the American aggression for at least 6 months. Therefore, he distributed to the Iraqis the food basket rations of 7 months till October of this year 2003. He also ordered to dig thousands of wells in Baghdad and the governorates. He also encouraged people to dig wells in their houses. For instance, in Adhamiyya, thousands of wells were dug. Those wells were of two types: small, which are more than 15 m deep, and big which are more than 25 m deep. A big well was dug in the garden facing Abu Hanifa mosque, another big one was dug in Haji Basra garden and a third one was dug in front of Ar-Rahman Ar-Raheem mosque on As-Safeena road coast near An-Nu'man Hospital.

This procedure was followed by all ministries, important offices, hospitals, party and security headquarters, police centres, popular districts in addition to houses. This was also followed in the other Iraqi governorates and towns. That indicated that surely Saddam entered a war and he was hopeful that he could withstand and resist for long months if not years. He announced through one of his ministers that he was ready for a long war that might last for 13 years till the political stand would change to his side in the Arab, European and international world. Those hopes were mere illusions because his followers and party members were mostly opportunists who were inflated with money, governmental posts and predominance over the people's yoke. He did not trust, however, the national groups, which would have withstood, resisted and fought. Therefore, he did not provide them with weapons, not even the small ones, till the last days of his rule. He was afraid that they may revolt against him. Only the tribesmen and the towns' people were able to play upon the regime and gain arms of limited effect. The army, Guards and Fidaiyyin, who were motivated by their patriotic sense and by their military obligations, sacrificed themselves willingly to defend their country. However, they were discouraged by the

heavy bombing, especially in the third week when the prohibited weapons were used in addition to the shock and horror policy; the psychological and information wars, defeated spirits of lots of people and treason of some leaders in Baghdad, under the pretext that they might be killed or that they disagreed with Saddam.

A trustworthy person told me that he was informed by a trustworthy source that during the first week of the war, one third of the American rockets strategic reserve had been run out. That was accumulated during the cold war and the following NATO Pact and the American fleets which were used to confront Warsaw Pact, Russia and Yugoslavia after the disunion of the Soviet Union early in the 90s.

Battles of Doura, Saydiyya and Zu’faraniyya

A trustworthy military officer told me that he was in one of the army headquarters in the south of Baghdad on Friday, April 4. He saw a landing in Rustumiyya, and therefore he went with his comrades to tell the leadership. They told it that they saw a column of more than 30 armoured cars moving in the direction of Zu’faraniyya, south of Rashid camp. Then, the authority responsible for following up landings, which was stationed in Gri’at, north of Baghdad, was also informed. In response, the brigadier responsible for landings told them to draw off their attention with their artillery. They responded “We have no force to draw their attention because we are a headquarter that has no more than small weapons and a number of anti-armour launchers to protect our headquarter.” He answered, “A Republican Guards force will be sent to you.” In the next day, that officer and his comrades were surprised to see another landing in the same area after 24 hrs and no force reached them. The Americans formed a fortified knot in the position and started to provide their forces with supplies in Za’faraniyya and Rashid Camp.

This is an example of the chaotic state from which the army suffered in the third week of the war in which the military landings took place on Baghdad’s suburbs. The chaos was very evident in the administration and services and there were very slow responses to the military operations around Baghdad.

Few days before that, there were landings and attacks around Baghdad and then its enclosure in the middle of the second week of the war. The Minister of Defense announced a strange statement then when he said, “The Americans will reach Baghdad after 5-10 days.” Two days after Yusifiyya Battle between the Republican Guards and the Coalition Forces, in which the two parties suffered from great losses, but the Guards were able to clear the place from the landed forces, a huge landing took place in As-Saydiyy near Bayya’ highway bridge. A great war took place between the two parties on Wednesday and Thursday, April 2-3 in this area on the Hilla-Baghdad highway. I myself saw the great destruction in the burned Iraqi machinery and tanks, as for the American ones, they were evacuated by their special evacuation divisions after the war. Great losses were inflicted upon the enemy as was stated in the Iraqi statement on Thursday, April 3. The Coalition Forces were

about to reach Baghdad University in Jadiriyya in the Rasafa side that faced Saydiyya, if they had crossed the bridge. However, the Iraqis were able to inflict great losses upon them and succeeded in driving them away via Hilla highway.

An eyewitness told me that an American force took hold of the bridge from Al-Karkh side on Wednesday morning. To frighten people, that force used to fire any Iraqi, even Iraqi children, within the area that extends from Doura intersection and the Refinery to the south, till Bayya' bridge to the north. The remains of that war: burned armours and cars and destroyed buildings could be seen till this day, April 15, for I saw them myself. These remains extended from Doura Refinery till Saydiyya, Bayya' bridge and Um-At-Tubool mosque. It was said that Saddam and his son , Qusay, appeared for the first time and they participated in the war with the army, Republican Guards and Fidaiyyin. Saddam appeared a second time in Yarmouk Battle near An-Nusour square on Friday, April 4. Then he appeared in Mansour and after that in Adhamiyya before he finally disappeared on Friday, April 11.

An eyewitness from Saydiyya told me that he was in Saydiyya Battle and he saw Saddam Hussein with his son Qusay

with his own eyes. They were in a Jeep that had an anti-plane machine gun. Saddam was carrying an anti-armour launcher. The eyewitness was told by others that Saddam hit and burned an American tank in the battlefield. He was accompanied by a large number of Fidaiyyin, Guards and army soldiers.

It is worth mentioning that the Iraqis, especially the Fidaiyyin, and the tank corpses have noticed that the American tank has a magnetic field that diverts the missiles launched from the anti-armour RBG7 launchers and let them explode away from it. Such tanks could not be hit except by TAO rockets or mortar missiles which were taken from Iran and Kuwait in the two previous wars as booties. However, these missiles took long to prepare and fire. They also need highly technical experience to use. The Iraqi fighters found out that covering the RBG7 missile with plastic enables it to hit its target and dysfunction the effect of the magnetic field. That method was followed in the following wars and it was highly effective. It was applied in Saydiyya, airport and Adhamiyya Battles; and hundreds of American tanks, armours and carriers were destroyed.

Saydiyya Battle took place after the Battle of clearing Mahmoodiyya-Yusufiyya road on Tuesday, April 1. The eyewitness added that after Yusufiyya Battle, the Coalition Forces performed 7 landings in Hilla road (Mahmoodiyya-Yusufiyya); each landing dropped about 3000 soldiers from the airborne forces. Those landings paved the way for Doura-Saydiyya Battle which preceded the airport landing and Abu Ghraib and Amiriyya Battles early in the third week after Thursday, April 3. The climax was in the decisive airport Battle which took place on Sunday 6/4, the Republican Palace war and Mansour Battles on Tuesday, April 8 and, finally, Saddam was defeated on Wednesday, April 9.

It is really painful to say that America bet that the Iraqis inside Iraq would side with it, whereas Saddam bet that people outside Iraq and the international public opinion would take his side. Both lost their be. At the end, the Iraqi people said their word and articulated it with bloody mouths within the first three weeks of resistance. It inflicted great and unexpected losses upon the invaders that they resorted to dirty and ignoble means to end the war victoriously.

An eyewitness, who participated in Twaytha Battle, south of Rashid Camp and the Atomic Energy Organization told me that chaos exceeded all limits on Tuesday, April 8. The situation was disturbed and the army did not know whether to obey the orders to surrender or to follow the spirit of resistance and fight to defend Baghdad. While a number of the Republican Guards troops were retreating, a lieutenant colonel in the Guards stationed in Twaytha in the Mada'in-Rashid Camp road said to his officers and soldiers "I've decided to remain here to defend Baghdad and I'll never retreat till I die or God may destine another thing for me." He took off his rank from his shoulders and said, "Today isn't a day of ranks. It's a day of Jihad and resisting the enemy. He who wants to stay with me is welcomed. Otherwise, his home is not far from here because we're in the suburbs of Baghdad." More than 150 Fidaiyyin from his unit, which had retreated from Azeeziyya and Mada'in, remained. They kept waiting for an American column of 60 tanks which came from behind the dam near the Atomic Energy Organization, and then attacked it in a blitz like one man. They succeeded in destroying 45 tanks and killed hundreds of the American soldiers, whereas they lost only 25 martyrs. Thus, Twaytha Battle ended with a great victory to the Iraqi army and its sincere men.

The Airport Battle

An eyewitness from the Republican Guards stationed in middle Euphrates (Misayyab-Hilla-Kut) told me that till the third week of the war, the army, Guards and people had very high spirits. The Americans failed to reach any victory that they can be proud of and their losses were huge and abnormal from their own point of view. They were driven out of the Iraqi cities to the desert and sands. Um-Qasr was able to withstand the Coalition Forces for more than 2 weeks. Army divisions 11 and 51 were able to defeat the Coalition Forces and hold many of their attacks. That also happened in Basra, Nasiriyya, Samawa, Najaf and the other Iraqi cities. All that, however, changed in the middle of the third week when the eyewitness unit was transmitted and retreated from Misayyab to Baghdad (Doura) after the Battles of Karbala and Hilla. They retreated to Baghdad to reorganize their unit. They were forced to return to Baghdad in civilian clothes and use civil cars to transport their kits and weapons. Then, they participated in Doura-Saydiyya war, which was a big war that took place between the Republican Guards and army forces and the American forces. This officer and those who accompanied him estimated that 300

soldiers and more than 7000 civilians were martyred. They also estimated the great losses which they inflicted upon the enemy amounted to killing more than 2000 soldiers and injuring other 3000 in addition to destroying more than 100 tanks, vehicles and carriers.

In the next day, the airport Battle happened after the landing that took place on Thursday. After they were driven out of the airport, the Americans returned on Saturday. On Sunday, the Iraqi military situation was confused in Baghdad.

This brave man mentioned that the Americans were horrified by the Guards, Fidaiyyin and the Iraqi army. However, leaving the country in the lurch, numerous betrayals of some of the units' leaders, especially those of the Republican Guards and the army, and the numerous intelligence penetrations led to exterminating many divisions and brigades around Baghdad, such as the Tenth Armoured Brigade, which was the strongest brigade among the ones assigned to defend Baghdad, that was bombed and destroyed during its transportation. A number of leaders conspired to sell Baghdad to the invaders. That confusion, penetration, cowardice, forsakenness and bargaining with the invading forces have made

Saddam execute more than 30 high-rank military officers from the Republican Guards, army generals, and army commanders. Many names of these officers were mentioned to me, yet to be exact and in order not to accuse innocents of that dangerous ignoble accusation, I shall not be able to mention them.

On Wednesday, the airport landing started and it was strengthened on Thursday from Abu Ghraib. The war was settled in favour of Iraq. Then, As-Sahhaf visited it accompanied by journalists on Sunday morning. After the tactical nuclear blow in the same day, Sunday, the second landing took place and the situation was settled in favour of the Coalition Forces. In a false and quick media movement that followed the cowboys' and Hollywood style, As-Sahhaf appeared after the limited nuclear blow in the area where the Republican Guards were stationed in the airport.

An eyewitness from the Republican Guards who participated in the airport Battle described the burned and scorched bodies which he saw with his own eyes by saying "I saw one of the completely scorched soldiers in the third floor of one of the airport's buildings. The strange thing is that we did not find any piece of broken glass in the building." He wonders,

“How could that soldier scorch while the building stays intact?” He found another soldier whose body was completely burned and only his skeleton remained. He did not know where did his flesh go? And how could that flesh separate from his body? He added that he saw another scorched martyr and when he held his hand it separated immediately from the body and fell on the ground. He saw other things, but he was satisfied with these examples to say, “An unknown weapon was used to exterminate everybody in the airport at that hour. That weapon must be new and prohibited internationally because the Americans prevented the journalists and press men from entering the airport except for small and limited places to photograph the airport occupation on Monday, April 7.” Then the prohibition was complete after shelling the Meridian Hotel and Al-Jazeera TV channel in the morning of Tuesday, April 8 which continued till April 18.

Baghdad’s Battle and theHeroic Fighting of the Iraqi People

Although the planners of this war claimed that it would be a blitz krieg and clean from any sign of prohibited weapons, in spite of the fact that they started the war in an illegal way, we are going to see how clean it was while talking about the following painful events.

Early in the third week of the war on Wednesday, April 2 or a day before it, the first stages of the decisive Battle of Baghdad started after the invaders’ success in crossing the Euphrates in their way to ‘Imara and Kut via Nasiriyya and Basra and in their way to Hilla via Najaf and Karbala. Fierce Battles broke out on the outskirts of Hilla, Misayyab, Kut and Hindiyya. Great losses were inflicted against the Coalition Forces. Moreover, the Fidaiyyin, Arab tribes and the army stationed in the western desert and the outskirts of the cities inflicted great losses against the Coalition Forces. Nobody can imagine nor communicate these losses other than a number of eyewitnesses and stories scattered here and there because of the American press dominance in the region. What changed the balance of forces was the confused falling apart situation to

which the Iraqi army troops and the Republican Guards south and middle of Iraq, specifically around the walls of Baghdad in Abu Ghraib, Yusufiyya, Mahmoodiyya, Swayra, Aziziyya, Mada'in, Nahrawan, Taji and Rashidiyya and the heavy and continuous bombing, which lasted for more than two weeks till the moment in which the Coalition Forces started to get the Iraqi opposing figures and their followers in Basra, Nasiriyya and Najaf, such as Ahmad Al-Chalabi, Nizar Al-Khazraji, Abdul-Majeed Al-Khu'I and then in Samara' Wafeeq As-Samarra'i. As a result, confusion and exhaustion started to spread in the Iraqi side. Another reason for that situation was the imbalance between the invading great power and the groups of Iraqi Jihad and resistance. However, the fact that nobody can deny is that the unified and high spirits and heroic resistance of both Sunnites and Shiites among both the army and people, especially in the south and west of Iraq are unequaled. The Coalition Forces did not take those into consideration. In Basra and Nasiriyya, for instance, both Sunnite and Shiite fought side by side. That also happened in middle Euphrates. Those fighters fought with spirits that had never been heard of except in the 1920 revolution, early in the previous century, against the British occupation after World War One.

The tribes of Dilaim, Jubur and the tribes that co-allied with them fought heroically and inflicted great losses against the enemy that the latter was forced to cover them up with all possible means by using the highly developed evacuation divisions, choppers provided with all means of evacuation and by using information deception, repeated lies and contradicted announcements of their leaders. The army, the Republican Guards and Fidaiyyin also fought in an unprecedented unity and bravery. For instance, we heard about the brave 51 division in Fao, which the invaders claimed that it surrendered to them; the armoured brigade 45; the sixth armoured division and the Republican Guard brigades in Basra, Nasiriyya and Najaf. Yet, the enemy was resolved to occupy the country under any pretext and by all means that these Great states, which co-allied together against our helpless country, have. An American statesman announced that they insisted on occupying Iraq even if they were to lose 65% of their forces in Iraq, i.e., two-thirds of the forces they brought overseas. Actually, the invaders from the special forces, marines and the British forces lost more than 20 thousand killed soldiers, more than 30 thousand wounded and a great number of prisoners, probably most of them were killed when the regime was, definitely, about to fall. This result

is the real image of the Iraqi steadfastness, despite all enemy and its media's attempts to efface and hide them from their peoples.

With their psychological and information wars and their abilities to shut up the Iraqi media with its simple channels, these despots took hold of Iraq. Early in the third week, the Coalition Forces were able to deploy three columns towards the south-west of Baghdad. The first came via Karbala and Hilla towards Mahmoudiyya-Yusufiyya. The second came via Fallouja-Baghdad towards Abu-Ghraib. The third came via Kut-Swayra-Baghdad towards Mada'in-Seeba. In the third week of the war, numerous landings in the south-west of Baghdad in Yusufiyya, Abu Graib and Doura/ Saydiyya/ Za'faraniyya/ Rashid Camp took place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 2-4. Then other landings took place, before the landing and war of the airport, in Nahrawan, Rustumiyya and Ubaidy via Ba'qouba-Baghdad old road. Those, and other small and scattered landings that took place in numerous positions in Baghdad in addition to the violent and continuous effect of the air bombing have the worst effects on the Republican Guards around Baghdad.

The Coalition Forces plan was to destroy the Republican Guards Forces, which were qualified to hold any attack against Baghdad, by forcing them to get out of their fortified positions to be hunt by planes and rockets. That was the major aim of the numerous landings around Baghdad. The Coalition Forces wanted these guards, which were about 3 army corps, to move from their positions and clash with the enemy in the numerous landings' positions so that they could be exposed to the heavy shelling and extermination while doing away with the landings which confused them.

On Saturday, April 5, the airport landing increased and was fortified for the Americans were able to make a fortified knot in Abu Graib from which they penetrated the airport. A fierce war took place there between the Republican Guard brigades and Fidaiyyin on one side and the landed forces on the other. The war was settled within 2 days in favour of the Iraqis. The Americans were forced out after they had lost 700 dead soldiers, more than 100 prisoners and hundreds of wounded soldiers who were cleared by the American evacuation divisions in addition to hundreds of vehicles, tanks and carriers.

With the initiation of the airport landing on Thursday, April 3, electricity was cut in Baghdad and we did not know why. Two days before that, a fierce attack was launched on the communication system in Sinak, Ma'moon and Adhamiyya.

Prior to stating the issues and awful violations that were committed on Sunday, we would like to emphasize the eyewitness statement that civil areas and unarmed civilians were bombed once again in all the quarters of Baghdad, such as Doura, Mansour, Hurriyya, Shu'la, Za'faraniyya, Adhamiyya, etc. Some districts were bombed with cluster bombs, the use of which against civilians and civil quarters is prohibited. All that was to prepare for the decisive Battle in Baghdad.

The Coalition Forces strategy in bombing the electricity generating stations was based on checking and paralyzing these stations without destroying them. They used to throw special reels of carbon threads on these stations. When those carbon threads fell on the electricity net, they were forced to shut down and the station would stop functioning completely. It was impossible to re-function them for the planes would discover, bomb and then destroy them. That happened to the giant generating stations in Basra and Nasiriyya in the first week of

the war and the giant generating stations around Baghdad on Thursday, April 3 after the first landing on the airport. The electricity was cut in Baghdad and then it returned in an occasional manner on Friday and Saturday. Finally, it was cut completely from Sunday, April 6 till Saturday, April 26. Electricity returned partially after the deterioration of security and spread of looting, a matter that made some of the Iraqi officials return to their offices, especially those related to services such as electricity and water.

Settlement of Baghdad’s Battle

In moments of collapse and breakdown, some people hold out and others get weak. In one of those moments, the Minister of Information As-Sahaf declared that the Americans were driven out of the airport. On Sunday morning, April 6, he took the journalists and correspondents to the battlefield. Everybody believed the news of the American Forces defeat in the airport. Yet what happened before and after that hour dumbfounded the wise and turned the noble hoary.

A Republican Guard told me about the confusion that overwhelmed since Saturday night till Tuesday, the difficult days that preceded the regime’s fall and Saddam’s loss of control over the army, the Republican Guards and the country as a whole. After that, Saddam turned to a gang-leader who roamed about Baghdad: Adhamiyya, Kadhimiyya and ‘Itaifiyya. Then, he hid just like any of ancient Baghdad’s tramps at the old days of tramps who roamed the narrow allies of Adhamiyya. Finally, he disappeared.

That officer told me that since Saturday and the following days, most of the Republican Guards’ leaders and units’

commanders had been reached at via their personal phones, though the telephones were cut because most of Baghdad's telephone centrals were bombed. They were told in Arabic Language, and probably in Iraqi dialect, "We are the Coalition Forces and we will enter Baghdad within few days. If you cannot be with us, beware fighting us or commanding your soldiers to fight. Otherwise, you will be considered a criminal of war." That officer added that when his commander told him that, he said "The other commanders have received similar calls."

Other decisive factors that the Americans made use of to attain their aims could be the opponent forces which entered the southern cities. Those forces succeeded in dissecting the national unity. They were also able to bring forth chaos and confusion in the Iraqi stand issue: whether to side with the regime or to fight the invaders. Confusion and chaos were also the result of bombing the Republican Guard positions and gatherings. The wounds inflicted by the rockets and planes were so deep and the losses so great. In certain positions the losses amounted to 70%. Another decisive factor was the air force superiority, or to be more accurate, the lack of air force in

the opponent side. Weakness, exhaustion and destruction that befell the air defense and shelling the places, which were previously assigned as very dangerous, were all other factors.

That horrible and highly confused atmosphere had generated feebleness and confusion among the civilians in Baghdad. The wild bombing had increased their fear and confusion as they saw children and women among the killed martyrs in the collapsed houses, especially in Raghba Khatoon, Sha'ab, 'Amiriyya, Doura, Jihad, Saydiyya, Baladiyyat, Adhamiyya, Ma'moon and many other places.

I myself have seen the wild effect of the bombing on houses, civil spots, service offices in most of Baghdad's quarters, such as telephone centrals, central markets in Mansour, Karrada Maryam, Sha'ab and Mustansiriyya, in addition to other places which I could not visit or know about. Moreover, early in the second week, the Ministry of Information, and TV and radio broadcasting channels were bombed. The state, however, was able to find alternatives for the TV and radio broadcasting but with limited technical abilities. The Iraqi TV satellite broadcasting had been bombed early in the first week of the war and the Iraqis were able to fix it. Yet, it was re-bombed

again in the second week of the war with the Ministry of Information and the TV and Radio Building in Salihiyya to shut up the Iraqis completely. I had seen the building of the Iraqi satellite station in Adhamiyya immediately after it was bombed. It turned to accumulation of debris. Till Monday, April 7, the decisive day in Baghdad's Battle, the Adhamiyya telephone central was bombed four times (till it turned to debris too with the surrounding buildings). I had also seen the civil positions bombed in Raghba Khatoon, Sumer and Sha'ab in which hundreds of women, children and elders were killed or wounded. That was covered by the European satellite channels. I saw one French journalist who was crying when she came to photograph the apartments and houses which were destroyed and burned after they were shelled by an American rocket in Sha'ab quarter. She saw in front of her the remnants of children and women and tens of wounded persons. She also saw the fires in the buildings and cars which used to move on the street that led to Ba'qooba-Baghdad road. That journalist could not stand the savagery of the civilized men who call for freedom while they were destroying every civilized and human thing in Iraq. They killed the unaware civilians under the pretext of freeing

and procuring peace for them. Her weeping was so loud that I heard her wails.

All that made numerous civilians run away from Baghdad in a frightening collective manner, especially when we take into consideration that most of the roads leading from Baghdad to the other governorates, such as the roads to Ramadi, Hilla, Kut and the old road to Ba'qooba, had been closed. Only two roads were open: the road to Mosul and the new road to Ba'qooba in north and east of Baghdad. People who had not got out in the previous days, started to run collectively with their families away from Baghdad towards Diyala and Samarra'.

That Republican Guard told me that they used to hear those rapid developments and the officers and soldiers used to exchange whispered remarks that they should escape and save themselves before closing all the roads, especially because most of them come from Mosul, Ramadi and Diyala. They whispered, "Surely, we would die away from our families if all the roads were closed."

Those were the results of the rumours of the psychological and information war. They had been made for

spread among that withstanding people and its brave army. However, those matters did not settle the war as the enemies desired. What could they do when they had all types of weapons: small arms, artillery, tanks, planes and even mass-destructive weapons, such as the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. They deceived the whole world and lied to it by claiming that they came to Baghdad to look for the mass-destructive weapons. Even if they find them, they are the ones which they had given them to Saddam, and then destroyed them in the early years of the embargo by the Searching Committees. Yet it seems that they behave with us in accordance with God's Almighty Quranic verse, "if they get an advantage over you, they respect not in you the ties either of kinship or of covenant." They do not respect agreements, covenant, law and even sanctities.

Thus, they let As-Sahhaf get out of the airport with the journalists and pressmen. Then, by a devilish insinuation, they hit the Republican Guards, who entered the airport and drove the invaders out, with an unknown mass-destructive weapon. Some eyewitnesses, who saw the scorched corpses, said that it was an irradiative tactical nuclear weapon of a limited effect

that disappeared quickly. Others said that it was a microwave bomb designated for a 200m X 200m area that roasted everything within that area just like the meat which is roasted in a kitchen microwave oven. That piece of news was mentioned by many Arab and foreign satellite channels on Monday, April 4, i.e., a week after the incident. Three brigades from the Republican Guards were exterminated. Then the American evacuation divisions cleared and hid them. Hours after that, the Coalition Forces re-entered the airport to prove to the international media the lies of As-Sahhaf and the truth of their media. Thus, Iraq's voice died away gradually and was finally reduced to silence.

After that horrible event, the neutral media was prohibited from entering the airport for ten days. A trustworthy eyewitness told me that that action was repeated in the quarter of Furat in Jihad area where a Fidaiyyin post was positioned. As a result, numerous Fidaiyyin as well as civilians were martyred and tens of houses were destroyed. Other news stated that similar prohibited weapons were also used in the quarter of 'Amil and the quarters that lied after it till Abu Ghraib in addition to the Mahdiyya quarter in Doura. The days to come will reveal some

of these illegal methods used by Americans against the Iraqi people to occupy Baghdad when they lost hope in the traditional ones.

That criminal act and the previous and following ones, such as bombing Palestine Meridian Hotel and killing the journalists are proofs of the barbarian Americans and Zionists and their dirty methods in wars. They also prove their cowardice and inability to attain their objectives without the use of illegal means. Moreover, they give proof of their lies to the world and their restrictions on the neutral voice of truth that belongs to the neutral media all over the world, especially the free European and Arab media.

That tragic and illegal method, with which they won the airport Battle, has astounded people and finally led to chaos and downfall. After that, on Monday and Tuesday, numerous landings took place and heavy bombing was launched all over Baghdad in order to surround and occupy it. Complete hold over Karkh took place after the sudden downfall of the regime's institutions on Tuesday. The invading forces bombed the Republican Palace first, then they succeeded to land and penetrate their forces in it, and finally they entered it. They also

bombed the meeting place in Mansour. The Meridian Hotel was bombed too and a number of journalists were killed there on Tuesday. The TV broadcasting was shut down and the radio broadcasting was transferred to the alternative position from the frequency wave AM to a very limited broadcasting on FM. That broadcasting lasted for 2 days, till Wednesday 10:20 p.m. The radio broadcasting was terminated by Saddam's speech and the Republican anthem after it. It was believed that the broadcasting was put into the air from Adhamiyya. Outside Adhamiyya, nobody heard it in the other districts of Baghdad.

That sad speech was the third and last one during the war. It told us the fatal end of Saddam's reign in Iraq. God knows that nobody could have defeated Saddam other than a more powerful group. These are the days of fortune, which God distributes to men by turns; nobody can turn back His command nor His power. Yet most people are unaware of this.

That American scenario to settle the situation and occupy Baghdad specifically on Tuesday, April 8, was accompanied by a rumour, which spread among people like the spread of fire in dry stalks, which said that Saddam was killed with his son Uday and that Qusay had escaped. It also said that the Ba'ath

party members had decided to surrender, leave their weapons in the party headquarters, escape and disappear quickly from the battlefield. Next day, however, it was realized that Saddam was not killed in the bombing nor in a coup as the rumour claimed and he was still alive. Saddam appeared in Adhamiyya on Wednesday, April 9 to falsify the rumour by himself. The party and its leaders, however, "have evaporated" as Saddam once said two years ago at the beginning of the Palestinian Intifada. He was commenting on the events of Bush senior war which took place ten years before that time. In an Iraqi dialect, he said, "Have we evaporated?" The party and the giant regime systems did evaporate within one hour. We found nobody of the well-known members of the party: most of them had disappeared since Tuesday. As for the rest of them, they had disappeared completely on Thursday morning, April 10 with the rest of the regime leaders, army generals, police officers and officials of the service offices. A wide gap resulted which brought forth the following painful events. That was another page of looting which will be tackled below.

The American Forces took hold of the Presidential Palace, which faces the river north of Baghdad, and Baghdad

College School, which was built by the American theologians on a very large area north of Adhamiyya more than 50 years ago and a church was built beside it. These places were used as bases for the Coalition Forces who were also based on the Tourist Island north of Baghdad on the Fahhama-Rashidiyya highway. In the southern part of Baghdad, they based themselves in Rashid Camp and International Sha'ab Stadium. In Kadhimiyya, the Americans based themselves along the road that links between Baghdad's Northern Gate and Taji Camp.

I have seen more than 700 Iraqi burned vehicles and tanks as a result of the intensified bombing that took place on Sunday, April 6 in Taji-Baghdad's Gate. Then, great losses were inflicted against the invaders: both casualties and machines were hit. Yet, the Iraqi media was exhausted and paralyzed as a result of the numerous military landings that took place in those decisive days around Baghdad. That situation confused the military and information conditions in Baghdad. After using the limited nuclear weapon in the airport, the airborne forces exterminated the last great force stationed in Baghdad. They also used heavy and cluster bombs in the civil districts in Baghdad. Heavily shelling and bombing on and around

Baghdad, the Coalition Forces settled the war in their favour on Tuesday, April 8, when the regime and its party broke down. On the same day, Saddam and his followers were removed completely from the Republican Palace. In a strange manner, Saddam suddenly disappeared forever from the Iraqi people's life on Friday, April 11. During his tyrant regime, that people were humiliated with barely sufficient means of living. All through the three decades of Saddam and followers' reign, they enjoyed neither peace nor stability. As soon as a war was ended, the people would enter a new more destructive, dangerous and expensive one. The lives of this people moved from suppressions, civil war tensions of relations, prolonged war with Iran, war with Kuwait, unjust embargo to the present war. Had Saddam listened to the wise voice of sense and to the advice to leave authority to the one elected by the people or to any political body, he would have evaded the country the destruction and the unequal clash between Iraq, which was exhausted by wars, embargo and backward dictator regime, and the greatest two powers which have unparalleled superior airforce and media in the whole world.

At the end of the second week, first indications of disagreement among the Iraqi military leaders appeared. Among the field disagreements, two reasons could be mentioned. First Qusay's plan to open the dams and lakes, such as the dams of Himreen and Qadisiyya in 'Ana, Al-Hindiyya and the lakes of Thirthar, Habbaniyya and Razzaza, to drown the largest area of land south Hilla, Najaf, Karbala and Kut. The aim was to isolate Baghdad and the middle Euphrates from the southern part of Iraq. Thus, the Coalition Forces would be hindered from advancing towards Baghdad. The second reason was the plan of deploying the Republican Guards troops and their machines in the civil quarters of Baghdad in Karkh, especially in Doura, Saydiyya, Amil, Jihad, 'Amiriyya, Hay Al-'Adil, Jami'a and Yarmouk. As a result, the Iraqi leadership was obliged to evacuate some of these quarters from the civilians, especially Doura and Saydiyya. On Wednesday, April 2, the first field implementation of that plan was materialized during the Doura and Saydiyya battle.

The leaders, who disagreed with Saddam and Qusay, believed that the water areas would isolate the army troops in the south from the supplies and consolidation that came from

Baghdad and the middle of Iraq. As a result, they could be besieged and destroyed, especially the troops positioned in Basra, Nasiriyya and ‘Imara. Moreoever, deploying the Republican Guards inside the civil quarters would inflict great losses among the civilians and would even destroy Baghdad itself. Forcing the enemy to fight face to face and clash outside Baghdad at its walls was the best and most effective plan to oust the enemy outside Baghdad, to prolong the war and, finally, to win the war. The reason was that the Coalition Forces could not withstand for a long period of time because they were afraid of increasing the casualties, especially when the Iraqi media succeeded in communicating them to the whole world. Yet, the problem that faced that plan, and which brought its failure at the end, was the Coalition Forces’ great capability to land huge forces in many positions that might reach to ten positions at a time. In addition to the evacuating divisions, the airborne forces were landed with all their armours and machines. Such landings took place in Abu Ghraib, Doura and Zu’faraniyya at the same time. That had confused the military situation in Baghdad. Consequently, Saddam was forced to change the Baghdad’s-fortified-walls plan. Disagreement had led to great and serious dangers in Baghdad. It also led to dismissing and executing a

number of the military leaders. That was the beginning of the faults that appeared in the leaderships of Saddam and Qusay of the Republican Guard and the party. Saddam believed that the regime's security came before the security of Iraq and Baghdad, whereas others believed that the perilous situation should be avoided to safeguard Baghdad, even on the expense of the regimes and its existence.

In contrast to Saddam's makeshift plan, the airport was re-occupied and the war was settled on Sunday, April 6. That was the beginning of the downfall, collapse and surrender of the army, Republican Guards and party leaderships to save the country what could be more dangerous from their own points of view, which were not devoid of forsakenness and dismay.

The Most Important Prohibited & Mass-Destructive Weapons Used against Iraq

The most important prohibited weapons which the Coalition Forces used and the mass-destructive weapons which the Coalition Forces resorted to tone down the Iraqi resistance and occupy Baghdad were the following:

1. Cluster bombs which were dropped on Baghdad and the governorates in large quantities. They were dropped in Baghdad in places such as Doura, Saydiyya (Mahdiyya quarter), Jihad (Furat quarter), the airport, Rashid Camp, ‘Amiriyya, Republican Palace, Raghba Khatoon, Sumer and Sha’ab. The International Law prohibits using these bombs in cities and against civilians because they are highly destructive. A cluster bomb splits to 3000 small bombs, each of which explodes separately. It can cover an area of about 2000cm^2 and results in destroying and pulling down tens of houses. This happened in Mahmoodiyya, Doura, Saydiyya, Sha’ab and other civil quarters. The American media has admitted the use of this weapon on civil areas. It claimed that the Coalition Forces used 1500 cluster bombs during the

war. The truth, which the American media has always tried to hide or belittle, however, makes us expect that the Coalition Forces used more than 10000 cluster bombs in Basra, Nasiriyya, Najaf, Baghdad, Anbar and other Iraqi cities. Deception is quite normal with the Coalition Forces which is part of their information plan and psychological war to belittle and reduce their huge losses, casualties and shot-down planes. People got used to hearing that two planes collided with each other, armours and planes have technical defects, the numerous casualties were shot by friendly fires, etc. Such lies were about to expose the informative and military weaknesses in comparison with the Iraqi people and army steadfastness, and thus they were forced to shut up and paralyze the simple Iraqi media and the neutral Arab and international media. In the third week of the war, the Coalition Forces bombed savagely those free channels which refused to falsify reality and which brought to light the American soldiers' cowardice and intimidation in spite of his highly-developed weapons and capabilities.

2. Bunker Buster bombs that weigh more than 10 tons which were dropped from the B52 planes and other planes.

They were dropped on the service offices, telephone centrals, communicating systems, ministries and civil quarters. They were used to hold the Iraqi resistance in Basra, Nasiriyya, Simawa, Najaf, Hindiyya dam, Hilla, Yusufiyya, Abu Ghraib, airport, Ridhwaniyya and Zu'faraniyya. These huge murderous bombs make earthquakes that register 4.5 degrees in Richter scale. The exploding containers that were dropped by planes which contained a huge quantity of highly explosive bombs and shells that weighed hundreds of pounds were dropped on the Iraqi cities and on both civilians and militants.

3. Sonic bombs which instill horror and awe in the civilians, children and women. Within the third week of the war, the use of these bombs increased. We used to hear the horrible sounds of these bombs for many successive hours during the night. They used to shake our house violently with frightening blasts that windows and doors were about to be plucked out and glass was about to break.

4. Tactic nuclear bombs which, as civil and Republican Guard eyewitnesses assured to me, were used to settle the second airport Battle, Ridhwaniyya, Abu Ghraib and Furat

quarter. Three Republican Guard brigades were exterminated by these bombs in the airport. This unconventional weapon has burned and scorched the corpses of the martyrs in the airport, ‘Amiriyya-Abu Ghraib road as well as around Najaf in the last war before the Battle of Baghdad on Tuesday, April 1.

5. Microwave weapons of limited effect which were used in ‘Amiriyya-Abu-Ghraib, Mansour, Republican Palace and other places. They killed thousands: burned and scorched them as if they were put in a microwave oven. A large number of eyewitnesses saw the scorched corpses inside the cars on the Abu-Ghraib road with no visible damage in the cars they were in. there were also scorched civilians and militants in the roads. Eyewitnesses said that the burned and scorched corpses seemed roasted from the bones to the external skin.

6. Microbial and biological weapons. On Wednesday, April 15, a piece of news was spread in Baghdad which said that incubators for producing a number of dangerous viruses were stolen from the Central Laboratories of the Ministry of Health in Andalus square and the Olympic Hospital. On

Wednesday night, we also heard that from the loud speakers and radio channels when we were at home. That story could be real and could be the result of looting which followed the war immediately, or it could be a trick to horrify the people of Baghdad. It could also be a threat to use microbial or biological weapons, and then accusing Saddam's regime or the gangs of looters of the crime. Everything is possible and probable in these circumstances, in which there is no trust between the occupying forces and the people. Moreover, it has been said that the Leishmania epidemic was spread in southern Iraq for the occupying forces announced its spread on Thursday, April 17. It is too early, however, to be sure of the origin of this epidemic and whether it was part of a secret biological microbial war used by the Coalition Forces to weaken and defeat the Iraqi steadfastness or not. It could also be one of the negative results of the war because of the numerous degenerated corpses of the war casualties during the war from both sides. Leishmania is one of the dangerous diseases which is carried by insects smaller than bugs. It afflicts the liver and spleen. In most cases, the disease is fatal and hard to cure. The BBC announced that there were 700 persons afflicted in Nasiriyya and there was a similar

number in Zubair and Basra, the areas where fierce wars took place between the Coalition Forces and the Iraqis during the first week of the war. We can never tell the reason behind the spread of the disease. It could be the degeneration of the numerous corpses, or the weapons used. Or could the disease have been brought intentionally to Iraq? The coming days will disclose many secrets, or it will bring answers to these questions and other ones, the first of which is the organized operation to destroy Iraq that took place during the liberation war under the leadership of USA!

7. Different other bombs which were dropped with the leaflet bombs on the Iraqi cities. They took the form of dolls, pens and toys. They were used to injure civilians and kill children.

Horrifying Ba,eth Party & Army: Their Downfall

The last official statement, which as I think carried no. 20, issued by the Iraqi media on Monday evening, April 7, was brief and general. It did not state the enemy's great losses as the previous statements did. For the people interested in the Iraqi matter, that was suspicious and surprising. Next day, and Iraqi officer told me that they received orders signed by the Chief General Staff and addressed to the units' commanders by names that ordered them to stop fighting, disarm their units, lower the Iraqi flag in the units and fighting positions and go home. Another order was addressed to the air defense which ordered them to stop hitting the air targets whether by using artillery, rockets or other weapons.

After that, the sounds of the enemy artillery and rockets got nearer to us in Adhamiyya. They used to be heard in the airport, Abu-Ghraib, and then got nearer to Hay Al-'Adil, Jami'a, Hurriyya, 'Adan square and Kadhimiyya. One by one, the enemy's artillery started combing these areas. Within 36 hours, the combing started from Abu-Ghraib till 'Adan square and 'Itayfiyya. That indicated how fast the progress of the

Coalition Forces to occupy Baghdad went on. It also proved that the huge Iraqi forces that surrounded Baghdad did not resist. After Sunday, April 6, something happened that paralyzed the army, Republican Guards and party. That very rapid deterioration in the military situation in Baghdad and the other governorates was suspicious and surprising for people in Baghdad.

People started to talk about treason and the deal mentioned in the Arab and foreign media. An eyewitness who was wounded in the Battles of Baghdad in Karkh told me that he knew from another soldier that on Monday, April 7, they were ordered by the Chief General Staff to be transferred to Jalawla' and Khaniqeen outside Baghdad, while there were fierce wars in Abu-Ghraib, 'Amiriyya, Mansour Hay 'Al-'Adil and the Republican Palace. Other orders gave open-ended leaves for the soldiers. In that critical and difficult time, such military orders were issued by high-military sides and addressed to the commanders of units and directors of formations by their names. That indicated that a number of cowards, traitors and spies were involved in Baghdad's surrender to the Coalition Forces without fighting. Hot arguments and clashes had taken place between

the regime’s leaders and the army leaders which led to the execution of a number of leaders from the army and Republican Guards. A trustworthy eyewitness told me that numerous high-rank officers, army leaders and Republican Guards leaders had been executed by Saddam and his son Qusay.

A story said that there was a deal between the army and Republican Guards leadership and the Coalition Forces to surrender Baghdad without fighting. Another story said that the Russian ambassador arranged a deal between Saddam and the Coalition Forces. The following events and Saddam’s stay in Iraq after the downfall of his party and regime proved that the second story was false. However, that did not mean that there were not negotiations between Saddam and Russia that were communicated by the Russian ambassador during the first ten days of the war. The Americans had observed that, and therefore, they bombed the Russian ambassador’s procession while it was getting out of Baghdad in the Baghdad-Ramadi highway in the second week of the war. They believed that Saddam was in the Russian procession. That criminal act proves that the Americans do not have any kind of diplomacy or respect for foreigners, diplomats or ambassadors, for a number of

Russian diplomats were killed and the ambassador was wounded.

At that time, I was busy trying to strengthen people, uplift their spirits and support the split internal front. We urged people to donate blood and reminded them of the importance of that action as a result of the increase in the number of the wounded. First, I took my family to the Blood Bank in Bab Al-Mu'azzam in central Baghdad. After that, I collected donors and took them to the Bank. Within the third week of the war, the donors number amounted to 150 from Adhamiyya alone. Moreover, in collaboration between mosques and the Ministry of Health, hundreds of donors donated blood in Abu Hanifa Mosque and other mosques in Baghdad within the last two weeks. Some young men and owners of cars helped us to transport donors and to provide them with foods and drinks. That was done after the official blood donation committees stopped working as a result of the deteriorating circumstances, downfall of the regime and difficulty of transportation during the last days that preceded the downfall of the state.

We found strong ardour and cooperative spirits in those young donors. They were from different races, different political

viewpoints and different affiliations. In fact, some of them were flirtatious and drunkards, young and old. Others were persons of determination whom everybody would testify that they loved their country and they were ready to sacrifice their souls for the sake of their God and for serving other people. That situation reminded me of the Prophet's tradition which said "People are like metals, the best of whom in the pre-Islamic period, are the best Muslims if they are well-educated in Islam."

We were so happy with that simple collective work. Everybody praised it, was relieved by it and was exceedingly ready (especially the young ones) to donate their blood. The national feeling was so deep-rooted in everybody.

We also supported An-Nu'man Hospital with volunteers to dress the wounded. Then, on Tuesday, we invited people to take turns in protecting the area from strangers because of the security disturbance which increased hour by hour.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we started to hear the state's news from the radio on a limited FM broadcasting channel. However, it broadcasted old national songs only similar to those we used to hear in the first two weeks of the war. There was

only one broadcaster of an unknown voice. He used to broadcast the same unimportant news every two hours which revealed that he had no information background needed to cover the news of a country like Iraq. It revealed that he was sitting at home or at a small place and broadcasting as any private radio station.

On Wednesday noon, a person came to us after the prayer and said that Saddam was in the mosque of Abu Hanifa and if anybody wanted to see him, he could ascend in his big GMC. Some residents of As-Safeena went with him. Being so tired, I did not want to go, I stayed overnight with the other watchmen on Tuesday. In the afternoon, I asked those who went to the mosque to see Saddam, "Did you find him?" They said, "We could not catch up with him for he left the place a quarter of an hour before we reached the place." Then, I saw one of my friends, who had seen and shaken hands with Saddam. He said, "I hugged him and he said 'O people of Adhamiyya, you are heroes.'" That man did not like Saddam nor was interested in politics. Yet, within the last days of this war, Saddam imposed respect and instinctive compassion for him as a symbol for Iraq, and for the existence of order and law in the country. In spite of

his tyranny and injustice, when some people felt that the alternative would be occupation and foreign invasion, they were attracted instinctively to him. That was the same reason that motivated the tribes and people in the south, middle, west and north of Iraq: to resist the unjust invasion. The Iraqi citizen is magnanimous and lofty-minded. He refuses to be humiliated or his country to be invaded in any form. Saddam's injustice may die with his death, but the injustice of occupation will last for ages.

Another eyewitness told me that at that day, he saw Saddam with his Minister of Defense or Chief General Staff and his son Qusay on Al-A'imma bridge in front of the mosque. He stumbled when he was about to ascend the car. Exhausted by fatigue, Qusay supported his father. Two weeks after that unique visit, Al-Jazeera channel broadcasted snapshots of Saddam's visit to Adhamiyya on Wednesday noon, April 9. A woman asked him about the cause of that end and about what happened. He answered, "I have been betrayed by the nearest people to me!" He repeated that in his last speech. He was not aware that people do not fight on behalf of anybody else. They only fight for the sake of religion and homeland.

Then, we heard that he participated personally with the Fidaiyyin in the Battles of Mansour, Adhamiyya and ’Itayfiyya. He used to carry a launcher and a small arm. Few days earlier, he defended by himself An-Nusur square and Yarmouk. That was seen by many people in most of the areas in Baghdad.

To history, I say that Saddam was really a brave and domineering man who was forsaken by his followers and party. As a result of his stubbornness, he did not trust anybody, and thus he did not give weapons to anybody except for those who sided with and follow him. That was the slip that made him lose the essence of the just cause. It was the same one that prohibited the faithful and believers from fighting with him. They were obliged to perform a marginal role in serving the country and pray to God to help people steadfast and to grant the country victory and patience; a condition that will not suffice to gain victory.

The opportunists were the first ones to get away from fighting because, for them, life is so precious after they had enjoyed its luxuries and comforts. Hence, the party “evaporated” and did not fight at moments of distress and bad need for Jihad and fighting. In his last speech broadcasted by

his private and faint FM channel, Saddam admitted his and his followers' defeat. At 10 p.m. on that gloomy day on April 9, he said, "You promised and swore by God to fight the enemy with me till the very end. But, by God, you did not fight as you promised. Nobody fought other than the Fidaiyyin and the leadership [he meant himself]." Then, he called for patience. He also called people to make up for the weakness that took place and fight again since the coming days would witness continuous actions to oust the invaders. At that moment, he stopped and started to weep, an action which he repeated three time during his speech. After that, he promised to go on and stated that he was firm and would continue fighting till he shed the last drop of his blood. He finished his speech by saying "Allah is great and let the criminals be disgraced." The miserable broadcasting was ended with the last national anthem in Saddam's era, to stop after that forever.

Saddam's weeping while he was saying goodbye to Baghdad reminded me of the weeping of Abdullah, junior, the last king of Granada when he was leaving it after its downfall in the hands of the Spaniards. His mother, princess 'Aisha, who was standing beside him, addressed him by saying "O, my son,

weep like women for a dominion which you did not protect like men.”[1]

In spite of the fact that Saddam proved to be brave when he defied America and Zionism, his party and followers did not fight like brave men. The people, whom Saddam deprived of its simplest rights, was the one who fought. It was able to defeat the American arrogance and resist that tyrannical power for complete three weeks. It also succeeded in giving the Coalition Forces painful lessons, the effects and fruits will show up to the world, however hard they tried to hide or falsify with the highly developed media.

[1] This story was told in the following lines of verse: Like women, weep for a great dominion, For you.. protected it not like men.

Adhamiyya Battle

On Thursday, April 10, fierce wars took place in Adhamiyya. It was shelled heavily for 6 hours. American tanks and armours took to the streets of Adhamiyya and crossed the 14 Ramadhan bridge from Karkh to the Royal Graveyard. They were more than 30 tanks and armours. The Arab Fidaiyyin and Iraqis resisted them and inflicted great losses against them which amounted to 7 tanks and more than 40 killed and wounded Americans. The Coalition Forces had attacked buildings, houses, shops and mosques and destroyed more than 50 civil cars. More than 100 Fidaiyyin and civilians were martyred and wounded. Among the martyrs were a boy and a girl whose ages did not exceed 12 years old. Most of those martyrs were buried in the back garden of Abu Hanifa Mosque.

People of Adhamiyya stated that Saddam was seen in one of Adhamiyya small mosques. That was the last night Saddam spent in Adhamiyya. Stories told that he lived in a small house that belonged to one of his son Uday's close friends. Other stories stated that he used to spend the night at Adhamiyya. school in the Royal Graveyard street. Anyway, after Thursday

morning, Saddam did not appear again in Adhamiyya after the fierce shelling and grinding fighting between the Coalition Forces and the Fidaiyyin.

The Coalition Forces announced the downfall of Saddam's regime on Wednesday, April 9, after taking hold over the Republican Guard and most of the fortified leadership positions and after the complete fall of the Karkh side and besiege of Rasafa. Adhamiyya was the last area to fall in Baghdad.

That autocratic reign was terminated. It did not believe in coexistence with other ideologies, opposing opinion and other institutions unless they follow him and effectuate his wishes and tendencies and serve his incapable approach which has with the passage of time and the intellectual and civilized development one of the under-developed principles and ideas that cannot survive in the modern reality fields that impose intervention, collaboration and mixing to withstand the great storms which have been caused by globalization, modernization and the revolutions of information, transportation and communication. These have shaken the foundations of states, such as

sovereignty, independence, economy and other essential aspects for establishing a modern state.

Saddam's regime was, in fact, devoid of vitality and it had to go away just like any other dictator regimes which lack realistic perspectives. Yet, the sudden and rapid end, which took place as a result of the foreign invasion's hammering and the concept of new occupation in addition to that forsakenness which Saddam felt at the end of that heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people, brought forth a taste of bitterness and defeat in the mouth of every Arab and Muslim. Moreover, that bitterness is felt by everybody who calls for peace and pluralism, fought by all unjust American powers, which aim at imposing globalization and Americanism instead of them. This is the reason which makes us differentiate between Saddam's inevitable downfall as a result of the regime's lack of qualifications to live and continuation and the necessity of Jihad and hard work to oust the invaders. To cover up their colonization, the occupying forces raised the false slogan of liberating the helpless Iraqi people and forcing Saddam's regime to fall. As we shall elaborate below, Saddam's regime was completely illegitimate and extremely unjust. The regime did

not take into consideration that it would be ousted from authority in the same way it used to rule people: the illegitimate power and the thick stick with which America started to threaten its enemies. Probably America itself, who had brought Saddam and supported him in the previous two decades, did not realize that it has turned to be his student in the school of injustice and illegitimacy. It practises these in occupying Iraq under the pretext of democracy and freedom. This irony and the wisdom hidden behind it are described precisely in the Holy Prophetic Tradition [which relates God's speech]: "The oppressor is my sword: I punish with him and I punish him with it." The notion of illegitimacy practised over Iraqis by Saddam during his reign was to imprison, kill and prevent all freedoms without any reason. This is the same notion that have brought America to Iraq without any legal reason. It will be the one which will cause the downfall of America and its colonizing programme, tyranny, disregard of international legitimacy, laws and systems. It will also ruin all the systems which let the law of the jungle, arrogance and tyranny have a major and effective political role in the international events.

Battles and clashes in Adhamiyya continued till next day Friday evening, April 11. The American army shelled Abu Hanifa Mosque and yard and the surrounding buildings. Even Abu Hanifa graveyard, in which the dead of Adhamiyya and others are buried, was shelled wildly. A number of rockets were thrown over the graveyard that the tombs were destroyed and the remnants of the dead were scattered in the middle of the graveyard street and the houses on the street.

An eyewitness, Abu Muhammad, told me that a fierce war happened between the Fidaiyyin and the Coalition Forces near Abu Hanifa graveyard at 1 a.m., Thursday night. Five Fidaiyyin were martyred and their bodies remained in the garden beside the graveyard and near Hasan Bek Mosque till the afternoon of the next day. Then they were left and buried with the other martyrs in the back garden of Abu Hanifa Mosque. That war took place near his house and he was able to follow it from it. One of the tanks was hit in front of his house: some of its parts separated and its door was broken and fell inside his house. I have seen that part from the surbis (conveyer of tank) of the tank and it weighed more than 5 Kgms.

The Battles between the Fidaiyyin and the Coalition Forces continued till Friday evening.[2] Yet the people of Adhamiyya went on performing the funeral rites of the martyrs and they buried them on Friday and Saturday. I myself have seen the effects of the Adhamiyya Battle on Friday, April 11. I saw the effects of the barbarian shelling which hit most of the facilities for living: service and civil systems, mosques, houses, cars and even birds, animals and insects. An eyewitness, who live in ‘Ishreen street back of the Adhamiyya Telephone Central, told me that he saw insects and birds die as a result of the heavy smoke which came out of the remnants of the Central building when it was bombed for the forth time. The house was filled with dead insects as if they were killed by lethal chemical gases. The effect was direct and lethal on the insects, and we do not know the slow effect on humans in the coming future. That was a simple observation on using unknown and destructive weapons, and what is unknown could be greater than that.

[2] Sheik Waleed Al-Adhami told me that Abu Hanifa Mosque, its minaret and antique clock were shelled on Thursday, April 10 after the end of the wars, provided that the war between the Coalition Forces and the Fidaiyyin had ended on Thursday noon. However, different clashes and air bombing renewed in the late hours of Thursday night and Friday afternoon, April 11. One rocket destroyed a number of houses in Chirdagh street near Al-Kubaisi shop and on both sides of the street.

I myself have seen the remnants of the destroyed buildings of the telephone centrals. Some were completely destroyed and most of the others were partially destroyed. Bab Al-Mu'azzam telephone central was destroyed completely. On Sunday, April 6, Al-Ma'moon and Sinak telephone centrals, which were responsible for international and local communications among governorates, were bombed severely, the lines were cut and the major net of communication in Baghdad and all Iraq was paralyzed.

The Coalition Forces attack against Adhamiyya started on Thursday dawn at 5 a.m. with heavy bombing. A convoy of tanks entered via 14 Ramadhan Bridge while spying unmanned aerial vehicles flew in the sky of Adhamiyya. We believed that they were boats crossing the river towards us from Kadhimiyya. Then people knew them and they get used to their sound all through Thursday and Friday. The Abatchi choppers flew over Adhamiyya and hit every moving body. They used to hit any firing. They also supported the tanks and armours convoys. The Abatchis' machine guns hit an ammunition store and a leadership position in Al-Hara near Ash-Shabender Mosque. Most of the houses, including the roof of mine, were hit by

those machine guns. Many chases and clashes took place between the Fidaiyyin and the armours. Later, I was informed that 3 convoys entered Adhamiyya. One convoy came from Kadhimiyya-‘Itayfiyya via 14 Ramadhan Bridge. Then, it passed the coast road near An-Nu’man Hospital, Al-Misannaya area and Hay As-Safeena market. Finally, it spread in the allies of As-Safeena where a big war happened in the narrow allies of the quarter. The second convoy came from the Baghdad College Secondary School via As-Sleekh-Sab’ Abkar road and entered Umar bin ‘Abd Al-Azeez street. It reached ‘Antar square, Ra’s Al-Hawash in the middle of Adhamiyya to meet the first convoy after combing Umar bin ‘Abd Al-Azeez street, ‘Antar square and the big market of Adhamiyya. The third convoy came from Al-Qahira through Raghba Khatoon, Azzibat street, As-Sabah bookstore, and then Ra’s Al-Hawash. The three convoys met in Al-‘Imam Al-‘A’zam square. A great Battle took place on Thursday evening in Ra’s Al-Hawash and Al-’Imam Al-’A’zam square in which tens of buildings, shops and houses were destroyed. Moreover, more than five tanks were destroyed between ‘Antar square and Al-’A’imma bridge. On Friday morning, I saw one of them near the bridge. I also saw a damaged armoured carrier inside Hara ally near As-

Shabander mosque in As-Safeena quarter. The invaders succeeded, however, to evacuate most of their burned tanks and armours in addition to their killed soldiers.

More than 60 Fidaiyyin and civilians were martyred and more than 40 were wounded. Three young men, Uthman, Munthir and Shakir, were martyred in As-Safeena near my house. Shakir was martyred while he was clearing a wounded person to An-Nu'man Hospital in his own TOYOTA. I saw the car which was bombed by an Abatchi.

The Coalition Forces attacked Abu Hanifa, raided it and arrested 14 civilians. Those were regular attendants to the mosque, the first of whom was Sheik Wathiq Al-Ubaidi, the vice Imam and preacher. They were taken as prisoners of war to Nasiriyya. A week after their arrest, Sheik Wathiq and other 6 persons, who were with him, were released.

On Friday, we followed the funeral procession of the martyrs, whom we buried with the other martyrs in the back garden of Abu Hanifa Mosque. After the funeral, some foreign journalists, among whom a group of Italian journalists, came near Abu Hanifa Mosque. I happened to be there, so I explained

in detail the war and the barbarian bombing of the civilian areas. The minaret of Abu Hanifa, which was bombed fiercely to an extent that its antique clock that was set in the minaret 70 years ago, was photographed. Moreover, a large hole in the minaret was opened. One of the mosque's domes was also bombed as well as the dome of Imam Abu Hanifa Club which was situated in the square facing the mosque. The people of Adhamiyya reacted fiercely and sadly to the bombing because they sanctify the mosque and consider it a symbol of their religion. Many men and women wept when they saw the mosque, its yard, market and the quarter as a whole after the wild bombing and the great destruction it inflicted against the beautiful and historical Adhamiyya. Adhamiyya was called by some people who love it, the Prophet's birthday town and the Great Imam's town. It is worth mentioning that the area of As-Safeena quarter, in which the fighting took place, had neither military nor industrial establishments. It is one of the ancient areas in Baghdad which is inhabited by many poor and medium families.

I took the journalists to the mosque's back garden to see and photograph the martyrs' tombstones who keep on increasing in number. I do not know whether they had published what I

told them or not for the American terrorist media tried hard to prevent these facts from reaching the world.

Alternative Shock and Horror Plan

It was very clear that the shock and horror which Bush and his Secretary Rumsfeeld talked about had been aborted in the first week of the war as a result of the brave resistance of all Iraqis from all religious sects, nationalities and political groups. The American failure was very evident in the north of Iraq as well as in the south. Bush's calculations about the blitz krieg and use of the shock and horror plan had gone in smoke. Bush could neither win the Shiites nor convince them to accept the deal of destroying Saddam in return for receiving the Americans with flowers. He also failed in convincing the Kurds or the Turkmen to ally with him to destroy Saddam in return for economic and political gains. The godly law of "checking a group of people by another group" had also its effect in bringing forth the failure of that plan, for God Almighty says in the Quranic verse "And if God did not check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief."

The American failure continued all through the days of the war. With the hands of brave Iraqi people, Blair and Bush tasted bitterness just like their soldiers who were in the Iraqi

desert or on the outskirts of cities. As a result, the invaders resorted to deception, prohibited means and psychological and information wars to win the war. After losing conventional war, they tried to apply the shock and horror plan in its ugly phase because they felt humiliated amongst their agents and followers from the countries which alleged with them.

If a brave person is deceived by a foul play after he has made his enemy taste the bitterness of defeat, his reputation will not be affected negatively. The whole world had seen the Iraqi steadfastness in the face of the two greatest powers in the world. Their resistance was recognized by those who believe in God and was rejected by the hypocrites and opportunists whose hearts were sealed by God against belief. That steadfastness will be the key to the world's salvation from this new international system which intends to devour the whole world bit by bit. It started with Iraq and will end with Europe and every honest state, people or person. Here comes the message of Iraq and its people: to face the colonizing American model which assumed bravery and ability to bring forth its aggressive objectives. At this moment, the sincere powers of goodness will unite to get rid of this arrogant system which has evil intentions

for all the nations of the world. The system that wants life to be given to its approach and system only. At least, the good powers can, otherwise, limit or stop the new system because it holds the spirit of arrogance, international colonizing and devilish spirit that intends to corrupt the world.

By using all means and ways, resistance for this abominable occupation of Iraq is going on without leniency. The honest word, which is sharper than a sword and more powerful than a rocket, will only be the starting point. This people, who took the stand of resisting that evil Zionist overflow in spite of the inequality in abilities and means, is able to bring forth crushing defeats to the invaders and to fight them by all means to gain sovereignty, freedom and peace till they give up their arrogance and withdraw their invading forces forever. At that time, nobody will feel sorry for them.

The American decision to intensify the military situation and use internationally prohibited weapons such as the nuclear sonic and (bunker buster bombs) in many areas around Baghdad in order to occupy it and abort the resisting spirit under any cost, was similar to its decision in the war against Japan in World War II to use the atomic bomb against Hiroshima and

Nakasaqi. By instinct, the Americans do not hesitate to resort to using all prohibitions and exterminate people, as was the case with the red Indians, the original inhabitants of America.

Thus, after the failure of the conventional plan in the first week of the war, the shock and horror plan was the alternative one. That decision had immense effect that changed the course of events in favour of the invaders. Since Thursday, April 3, the criminal project was implemented to assassinate Iraq gradually by destroying its regime and infrastructure. That continued till Thursday, April 10, the day in which Adhamiyya Battle took place.

To shed light on the effect of the shock and horror plan and the psychological and information wars, in which America performed a single-actor role and did not allow for any opposing or neutral role by bombing the other press centres in Baghdad, we should mention the condition of people in Baghdad at that time. Civil and militant people were scared. Few of them decided to persevere and remain stationed in one position in spite of the indication of sure mass-deaths for the ones who remain in Baghdad. Most of those few who remained in Baghdad were shocked and enfeebled as a result of that horror,

about which people started to talk openly and not in secret. They decided to leave the capital and run away with their children and families via Ba'qooba and Mosul highways. Suddenly, the gas stations were crowded. Thousands of cars filled with as much food as they could carry. Some people tried to stop that frightful march to get out of Baghdad, but their attempts were useless. More than a million got out of Baghdad on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. As I was told by an eyewitness, the Ba'qooba highway and beyond it Baladrooz and Miqdadiyya highways were over-crowded with tens of thousands of cars. He even counted the lines of cars going eastward towards Baladrooz-Mandily and found them more than 11 lines. There was no space to go back towards Baghdad, not even in unpaved road, for he wanted to go back. That was on Friday, April 4. The reader can imagine what happened in the following days which were much harder and confused than Friday.

At last, the Americans won not by their bravery and conventional military forces, but by prohibited mass-destructive weapons and by information war, in other words, evil information terrorism which allowed no information other than

the one which served the American plan. Furthermore, they won by recruiting spies and traitors who entered Baghdad from the north, south and west. They were their guides for the positions of the Republican Guards, Fidaiyyin and other sensitive positions. By using special electronic transmitters, they used to send signals and co-ordinates to facilitate bombing and destroying those positions.

Even officers and soldiers from the Republican Guards and the ruling party were horrified. Therefore, treason, forsakenness, collective surrender and general breakdown took place. Traitors from the high leadership issued orders to put arms aside and go home, and thus, leave Baghdad an easy prey for the oppressive invasion. In his last speech, Saddam talked about that on Wednesday night, April 9, the day in which the regime fell and the Iraqi state was assassinated.

Probably, I can certify that the horrified people who ran away from Baghdad were not to blame. The shock was so too great and the psychological war was unbearable. Moreover, treason and penetrations used to aggravate the situation. The heroic stand was that of the few who remained in their places and committed their cause to God Almighty Who says in His

Quran "O you who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God that you may prosper." That stand was the one which stood beside the people who resisted the invasion in the south, west and north of Iraq for 20 days in which they fought the enemy and gave hard unforgettable lessons, especially the tribes, army, townspeople and Fidaiyyin. Really, it was and Iraqi myth. This great people, Arabs, Kurds, Shiites and Sunnites, had withstood the international tyranny and resisted the greatest barbarian attack in history against a noble and peaceful people who was ruled and restricted by a domineering power. They waited nobody to help them other than God. Yet they were surprised to find that the Jews and Arabs conspired with the invaders against them to molest and destroy their image in addition to their civilized and ancient heritage. These tyrants will be burned by the same fire with which they burned this great country.

The conditions of weakness, forsakenness, humiliation and abasement which were assumed by some people when they faced the war and foreign invaders have cost the country a great deal and they will cost it much more in the near future. There is no power and no strength save in God.

Those who have watched idly or who forsaken will bear the responsibility of losing the sovereignty and independence of the country which was spoiled by the foreigners. The autocratic domineering regime was also responsible for its failure to implement the plan of resisting the aggression because of its dictatorship, affected arrogance, over-indulgence in imaginations and shallow calculations of the powers surrounding it whether those with or against it. “To God we belong, and to Him is our return.”

Saddam's Regime and Its Repressive Systems

Saddam's regime and its administrative and repressive systems collapsed on Monday, April 7, the birthday of the party. It had an iron-fist hold over the state and it was the greatest repressing regime in the Arab world. To form an idea about the regime and its numerous repressing systems, we will try to shed light on their number and their establishments. This information is stated by eyewitnesses, laymen, party members and militants who lived inside, witnessed and heard about these systems during the previous 20 years.

These systems were the ruling party system and it included more than 5 million members. The ranks of the party start from supporter, then partisan, member (comrade), member of division (Firqa), member of branch (Shu'ba), member of branch (far'), and, finally, member of local or national leadership. The other repressive systems were: the Intelligence System, Local Intelligence System, the General Security System, the Special Security System, The Economic Security System, the Bodyguards System, the Republican Guards, the Emergency System, the army, the Police, Fida'yyu Saddam, the

Secret Presidential Offices and other systems which nobody knows them other than God and those who were involved in that regime. Those systems used to watch each other in addition to watching every group and type of people. They followed special instructions and secret approach which were hidden from people and the other systems. Furthermore, for each commanding official, director general, unit commander, or minister, there was a secret alternative or lookout who watched his movements so that he might not go astray from the specified path and think in a way that disagreed with the disposition or plan of the Leader. In case the devil prompted wicked ideas to him, he would be damned. He might be humiliated, imprisoned, sacked immediately, or thrown to the hungry dogs and lions in the dark cells of the secret repressive systems. We used to see that clearly on the faces of the commanding officials and ministers and even on the faces of the many vice presidents.

The prisons of the regime were so numerous, disciplined and varied that each repressive system had a number of prisons other than the conventional legal ones which were subject to international and Human Right Organizations observation. Only in Baghdad, there were hundreds of small, medium and

large prisons. There were also special courts that used to bring prisoners to these different prisons, such as the Special Intelligence Court, Special Security Court and General Security Courts. It was well known that those courts were sham ones, for after a number of fictitious sessions and a simple fictitious defense system, the judges were provided with the judgment decisions, which were decided by special secret sides that remained behind the scenes, and which were read before imprisoning the person according to the specified judgment, whether secret, public, civil or political imprisonment.

In addition to the prisons of the ones who received judgments, there were special prisons for the detained who had not been prosecuted. A political detainee might remain without trial for numerous months or years or he might be detained in secret places without a specified period, not to mention the cases which awaited to be executed or awaited a decision from the regime's president to decide their future. All those cases and other ones, which the Iraqis encountered during the last three decades of the Ba'ath and its leader Saddam Hussein who assumed divinity, had put people in consistent worried and horrified states. An opposing person exposed his family and

tribe to Saddam's anger and revenge. It was horror and not only fear from the regime and its henchmen that dominated the Iraqis. Nobody could have imagined that that giant and iron-fist regime might collapse within a day and a night and would not find anyone from the people to defend it or feel sorry for it. That people who suffered a lot and paid dearly for the existence of Saddam and will pay much more after his departure because Saddam left nobody to lead the people and the chaos that followed the war left neither framework nor establishment on which the coming leader may depend.

As for justice in Saddam's regime, it had no real effect among people other than names and claims, just like seeking council and freedom. Such concepts were found only in the party's literature or written in the Ministry of Justice offices in addition to other concepts which were to be repeated by words of mouth like any vague sophist expression which had no meaning other than that intended by the Inspired Leader. Nobody should expand in its meaning.

Injustice, on the other hand, was deeply-rooted in Saddam's reign that some sincere people thought they could not get rid of it other than by means of death or giving up. Long

time ago, some religious scholars said “Life under the rule of an infidel just ruler is better than life under the rule of a Muslim unjust ruler.” Some even went to the extreme when they thought that the meaning of that saying was as an invitation to surrender, something that Islam rejects. The religious scholars, in fact, wanted to warn against the dangers of injustice which could be a cause ordained by God to give the mastery of an infidel over the Muslims. It was an invitation for the Muslim leaders to repent and relinquish injustice, and it was not an invitation to seek the help of the infidel against the Muslim or even to wish that the invaders or occupants might come and overrule. The two understandings are contradicting to each other.

One of the common forms of injustice in Saddam’s reign was that privileges, benefits, authorities, assumption of leading positions, high salaries, allowances, gifts, and what was called the monthly occasions’ gifts were all given to Saddam and his relatives, tribe, party, followers, henchmen, hypocrites and sycophants to the disadvantage of innocents, helpless and poor from the rest of the Iraqi people. As a result, dishonesty, bribe, favoritism, hopelessness in justice prevailed. Yet, just like the

Ba'ath party trilogy "Unity, Freedom and Socialism," which was memorized since the 1970s, each Iraqi should admit the existence of the notions opposite to the prevailing ones and he should emphasize their importance to the Iraqis. In the 1970s, an old Iraqi women thought that the trilogy were the ex-Iraqi president Al-Bakr's daughters.

An instance of injustice among students was the numerous privileges given to commanding officials and ministers. One of those privileges was the restriction of some of the chairs in distinguished and highly sought colleges, such as the colleges of Medicine and Engineering, to their sons by adding marks to the aggregate obtained at high-school. A high-school graduate would obtain 5 marks to be added to the aggregate obtained in the baccalaureate examinations if his parent was a holder of the party medal, a high rank member in the party, a holder of a medal for heroism, martyred in the Mother of Battles (war with Kuwait) or in Saddam's Qadisiyya (war with Iran), a minister, commander in the army or the Republican Guards, a friend of Saddam or a teacher. The reader does not need to be surprised if he is informed that the aggregate may amount to 115 out of 100 as a result of the unjust and crazy

additions. The people relished those additions and started to accept the ill-gotten, prohibited and unjust things. Consequently, hatred and vindictive feelings were harboured among students in addition to illegal competition. You might find a student who had obtained an aggregate of 100 out of 100 without additional marks, yet he was not able to attend the college he desired, e.g., the college of Medicine.

The same thing applied to post-graduate studies, or in fact, the condition was more unjust and more distinctions were applied. It could even be worse than apartheid. For example to continue post-graduate studies [in the Islamic religious disciplines], one of the major conditions for acceptance was to be a member in the ruling party. He also had to be accepted by a committee presided by ‘Izzat Ibraheem. His personality should be a sought-after person. Furthermore, extremely severe and unjust conditions should apply to him. Thus, all the other facilities of life went by.

In fact, nobody can imagine the life of the Iraqis under the circumstances of hypocrisy and opportunism which prevailed among people, especially the high rank party members and the commander officials. The lies and jugglery, which drowned the

regime's leader in a sea of imaginations and illusions about the power of the regime and the people's close union with it, were indescribable. Nothing can portray that condition other than the Latin American writer's famous political story "The Story of the New Emperor's Clothes" which shows the exchanged deception between the dictator and his enslaved people. Both believed their lie and nobody exposed its falsehood other than the instinct of an innocent child. He saw the emperor walking naked, after being deceived by the jugglers and opportunists, in a big national festival. The child, then, shouted to his father, "Papa, the emperor walks naked."

That condition of life under the rotten dictator regime, in which people got used to hypocrisy, was also portrayed by the martyred Egyptian poet Hashim Ar-Rifa'I in his poem which was entitled "The Martyr's Wife Lullabies Her Child"

> Other than the voice of Hypocrisy, nothing is heard.
> The voice of those who worship man instead of God,
> Who glorify and offer their prayers to him.

Most of the period of his reign since 1979, Saddam was engaged in wars and severe local and international clashes,

which led in most cases to destructive wars. The war with Iran took over most of the 1980s, then the war against Kuwait and the bitter defeat of the army by the thirty-state Coalition led by Bush senior, who was wiser than his son. He did not allow for Saddam's downfall, which was very near immediately after the war and was satisfied with his signature on the embargo and on horrible condescensions for the Americans on the expense of the Iraqi people.

During the exhausting years of the embargo, the people endured all kinds of torture and humiliation so that Saddam remains in his ruling position. In those years, Saddam occupied himself in building gigantic mosques, vast republican palaces, and colossal monuments that immortalize his reign. He was also busy with the great campaign of belief which took place in mosques and schools and which was led mainly by the hypocrite regime's henchmen. As a result, that campaign did not bear much fruits nor was blessed by God Almighty except in very limited places in which there were few honest and sincere people who were blessed by God and who did not bother to listen to the hubbub of the impious.

After the surrender of the Scientific Consultant of President Saddam Dr. ‘Amir As-Sa’di to the Coalition Forces on Saturday, April 13, Saddam’s two half-brothers Watban Ibraheem and Barazan Ibraheem At-Tikriti were captured. President of the Iraqi Atomic Energy Organization Dr. Ja’far Dhiya’ Ja’far, Minister of Higher Education Dr. Humam Abdul Khaliq, Member of the Ba’ath Leadership Muhammad Hamza were arrested in April 20. Minister of Trade Dr. Muhammad Mehdi Saleh and Minister of Finance Hikmat Al-Azzawi were arrested in April 23. The Vice Prime Minister Tariq Azeez, the important political and information figure in the reign of Saddam and Al-Bakr, was arrested in April 25. Dr. ‘Amir Rasheed Al-Ubaidi gave himself up in April 28. Member of the Party Leadership and Leader of the middle Euphrates Mizban Khidhr Hadi, Minister of Military Manufacturing Engineer Abd Al-Tawwab Mulla Hwaish and Vice President Taha Muhi Ad-Deen Ma’roof were arrested in May 1. Thus, 43 out of the 55 wanted to be sued as criminals of war in the list announced by the Anglo-American Leadership. On the top of this list are Saddam Hussein, his sons and a number of other ministers and commanding officials in the defeated Iraqi regime. Among these are the biological scientist Dr. Huda Saleh Mehdi

‘Ammash, who is called by the American media “the Anthrax Lady” and the scientist Rihab, wife of ex-minister of oil Dr. ‘Amr Rasheed Al-Ubaidi, who was called “Lady Germ.” The strange irony in this deceptive and prejudiced media is that it intends to allude that since Iraq has these scientists, it must have mass-destructive biological, microbial and nuclear weapons. This media does not take into consideration that there are great numbers of similar scientists in all the countries and on top of them are America and Israel. Thousands of similar scientists work publicly or secretly in the research centres that belong to the CIA, Pentagon and other American military and intelligence establishments and nobody can indicate to the US violations of the use of mass-destructive weapons, depleted uranium and prohibited weapons in the war (Second Gulf war in 1991), Yugoslavia (in Kosovo region), Afghanistan and now in the war against Iraq. The Americans used tactical nuclear bombs in Ridhwaniyya and the airport. They used other prohibited weapons such as the fragmented cluster bombs, microwave bombs, sonic bombs and bunker buster bombs (10 tons). These bombs were used against civil and service areas in Nasiriyya, Zubair, Semawa, Falloja and Baghdad (in Furat, Doura, Saydiyya, Sha’ab, Taji, Mansour, republican palace,

Za'faraniyya, Nahrawan, etc.). As a result, the number of martyrs increased to more than 100000 martyrs, more than half of them died by those prohibited weapons. Furthermore, a great number of the deaths were armless civilians. With their conventional weapons and heroic martyrdom seeking operations, the Iraqis, nevertheless, were able to kill 20000 Americans and British in the western and southern desert and on the outskirts of the Iraqi cities in the first three weeks of the war. Some of those were killed in the confrontations with planes and helicopters which were shot down by the Iraqi fires. That was done in spite of all the administrative, technical and military gaps and defects from which Iraq suffered on the hands of their daydreaming and ignorant leadership who did not know the bases of war and its requirements. That was also done in spite of the treason of the opportunists from the ruling party and the base-minded persons from Saddam's retinue. They were too indulged in luxuries, privileges, power and arrogance, thus they were ready to give sacred oaths to their leader that they would form a formidable barrier against the enemy and be symbols of sacrifice and martyrdom. They offered him hollow words that failed in the first test and evaporated in the moment of real challenge. Thus, they left the people and army fighting

heroically alone. They took the lead of the escapists and those who believed in the deceptive media. They were deceived by the claims of the psychological war that aimed at scaring the people, destroying their spirits and dissolving their heroic resistance to the occupying forces.

Prior to leaving the leadership of Iraq on Wednesday night, April 9, Saddam admitted the treason of his party and that its members and had broken their oaths. He proved to history that painful fact which every tyrant and Pharaoh must see at the end of his reign and religious authority. Moses' Pharaoh admitted it before he was drowned. Even before that admission, God has ordained that all powers are His. At moments of challenge, the worldly parties' principles dissolve into nothing; and when the divine canons occur there will be no way to change or alter them.

Saddam's condition seemed to say "I wish that he realized all those things before that fateful event and before that destruction which inflicted Iraq as a result of his tyranny and general injustice. Now Iraq is fettered by this occupation which no one knows when it will end."

One of the features of Saddam reign during the last 20 years of his tyrannical regime was that every new and old thing in Iraq was named after Saddam's name. Every contribution

or new action that might serve the people, such as the increase in salaries, building a new dam, building a road and digging a river, was considered a gift from the leader to the people. The funny thing was that we used to hear about a decision, whether political, economic or social, which was a gift from the leader, and then it would be annulled, again, by a gift from the leader, such as the traffic legislation, pardoning the prisoners and other big and small decisions. That also applied to all the public activities in any of his ministries. In fact, those were neither real ministries nor did they have real ministers; they were secretarial offices that followed the Presidential Office and the Revolution and Party Command Councils which were all led by one person only.

All over Iraq, the names of residential quarters, hospitals, universities, schools, libraries and museums were changed to Saddam. Ath-Thawra City, which was built by the Iraqi ex-president Abdul-Kareem Qasim, was renamed Saddam's City. The Medical City Hospital, which was built after the 1958

revolution, was renamed Saddam's Medical City. That applied also to Saddam's Islamic University, Saddam's University of Engineering and Sciences, Saddam's Medical College, Saddam's Law College, Saddam's Military College, etc. As for cities and dams, ancient Suq Hamada in Karkh was renamed Saddamiyya Al-Karkh, and the same thing for Saddam's Dam in Mosul and Saddamiyya Ath-Thirthar in Samarra'. There were also his numerous palaces, which he had to call "the people's palaces" because of the American media pressure while the UN committees were searching Iraq for weapons near the end of the 1990s. There were, furthermore, Saddamiyya Al-Fallouja near Al-habbaniyya lake, Saddamiyya Al-Basra, and other Saddamiyyas in Babil, Mosul, Anbar, and other governorates, cities and towns. Saddam's name was engraved in every meter and every stone in Iraq. Even the Iraqi currency had Saddam's picture. The value of that currency deteriorated a great deal after the war with Kuwait. While an Iraqi dinar was equal to one American dollar or a little bit more or less in the 1980s, an American dollar equaled ID3000 in 1995, i.e., the inflation in the ID value amounted to 10000 the official value of the US$ (officially an ID equaled US$3.32).

The funny thing was that the officials' salaries remained nearly the same, i.e., the range of the officials during the embargo did not exceed US$5 except those who had privileges and were nearest to the regime and the leaders of the party. People lived in abject poverty in a world that goes round Saddam and his pictures.

Daghistanis used to cross Iraq in their way to pilgrimage to Mecca. They used to bring their goods to sell them in Baghdad. To tell the price of an item, they would say, for instance, 7 Saddam or so and so Saddam. By "Saddam," they meant the ID250 currency which carried Saddam's picture. Even Iraq was called Saddam's Iraq. The world of Saddam and his enlightened age was called by some Iraqi pressmen, who belonged to the systems run by Saddam and his regime, called great Iraq "Saddam's Planet." I did not know whether they meant by "planet" the whole earth, or that Iraq started to represent the whole earth, and therefore, everything around it became worthless whether it was the Arab, Islamic, or even the whole world. Saddam was imprisoned by his own imagination just like any previous dictator like Attaturk, Hitler, Stalin and other gods and Pharaohs who considered themselves gods and

wanted their peoples to worship them instead of God Almighty, as in the Quranic verse “Pharaoh said: ‘I but point out to you that which I see (myself) nor do I guide you but to the path of the right!’” (Ghafir, 29). God Almighty describes the people whom the Pharaoh enslaved by saying “Thus did he make fools of his people, and they obeyed him: truly were they a people rebellious (against God).”

When Saddam woke up after the defeat, he found that his followers, the opportunists from his party and his assistants, who used to hail him and torture people, did not fight. It was the people, who believed in their cause, God and country, who fought. They rejected the foreign occupation and they were ready for any cost and sacrifice. Without being able to change the new reality and abominable defeat, to save his great dominion from being lost, or even to save his beloved country from the reprehensible occupation, Saddam admitted that bitterly in his last speech.

One of the features of Saddam’s deifying himself, enslaving and disregarding his people was his numerous statues, monuments and pictures which were overspread in streets, offices, companies and houses in an unbelievable amount.

There were hundreds of large pictures in each Iraqi city, quarter and even ally. In each square, there were one or two pictures. At the gate of the party headquarters, companies, establishments, public and private offices and military units there were pictures. Inside the allies, markets, clubs, etc. there were pictures. In the last years, statues increased awfully in the Iraqi cities as a result of the tradition which the party encouraged and imposed on his members and commanding officials in the public offices, who were usually members of the party. No Iraqi could be a commanding official if he were not a member of the ruling party. What was more, schools' students were forced to join the party collectively; even six-grade students, who were 12 years old, were forced to join the party. Furthermore, in all the stages of study, from primary schools to universities, the party's approach and the biography of the leader were taught under the title "National Culture." One of the conventions of the party when festivals were held in ministries, establishments, offices and party headquarters was the inauguration of a big picture or statue of Saddam at the entries of towns, ministries, companies, etc. The most important festivals of those were the occasion of the leader's birthday in April 28, the party's birthday in April 7, July's numerous

revolutions, namely the 14th of July and 17-30th July revolutions. The latter revolution was the one that brought the Ba'ath party to authority in 1968. Another occasion was the end of the Iraq-Iran war in August 8. There were many other occasions which the party devised to glorify its history and struggle.

The names of the leader had reached to 99 names, to assimilate and counterpart Allah's Almighty beautiful names. To history, we can say that Saddam did not request personally those hypocrite and opportunist acts which glorified Saddam. It was a spontaneous procedure followed by each people governed by a dictator. That happened in Egypt in the reign of Abdul-Nasir, in Yugoslavia in the reign of Tito, in Romania in the reign of Ceausescu, in Germany in the reign of Hitler, and before them, in Russia in the reign of Stalin. These negative features prosper and flourish in a harmony between the god-leader who enjoys being glorified and the enslaved and helpless people who is deformed by tyranny and humiliation.

Insecurity and Looting

In the noon of Friday, April 11, and after the end of the last Battle in Baghdad, i.e. Adhamiyya Battle, the Friday noon prayer was not held, for there was no state nor Imam (as in the opinion of Abu Hanifa and other scholars). In the afternoon when the shelling relatively calmed down, I went out towards the Royal Graveyard. I had heard about the onset of the looting in the public offices, buildings and establishments. I was surprised to see tens of cars near Saddam's University for Islamic Sciences, which lied near the Royal Graveyard. The university gates were opened and the looters were competing to steal all the machines, instruments, computers, air-conditioners and electrical sets. Even wood, papers and documents were stolen. I stood in the opposite direction in front of the university and I was about to throw up out of the shock. My eyes were wet from those disgusting scenes. The condition we were in after the disappearance of the state and the downfall of the party and regime was detestable. We could never have imagined what might befall us as a result of this invasion and aggression. The

looting, ravaging and destruction during the following three days or till the end of the week could never be imagined.

As a result of those disgraceful acts, shock, despair and disappointment overwhelmed us. On Saturday, I was paralyzed by those feelings. I stayed in Adhamiyya with a number of close friends to discuss the issue of preserving security in the quarter, the hospital near our houses, i.e., An-Nu'man hospital, and the surrounding mosques. While we were forming volunteering committees and watchmen to protect the hospital and the area, a group of respectable men and scholars in Adhamiyya and most of the quarters of Baghdad instructed to issue calls addressed to people. Within the boundaries of our area, we issued an urgent call to stop looting and resist it. I called for forming local armed committees to protect the quarters, offices, hospitals and universities. That was issued after we heard that a number of universities, libraries, hospitals and banks had been looted and burned. One of the respectable scholars who issued that call invited me to participate in that urgent action which might lead to a kind of treatment and fill the blank of security which resulted from the sudden and quick "evaporation" of the regime and its system.

Urgent Call to the Iraqi, Arab and Human Opinion

"Stop the current operations of destroying Iraq which is taking place right under the very noses of the foreign occupation forces and with their encouragement." After the destructive wars and after more than a decade of crushing economic, scientific and human embargo, we, Iraqis, have nobody to look for other than Allah Almighty. Our people are confronting a new adversity which resulted from expelling the people and the confiscation of the people's civil rights by the one-party government, which confiscated even the rights of the party members themselves.

Iraq's new occupants, who have come under the names of liberty and democracy, have started to show their real intentions, as Rumsfeeld, Wolfz and Blair define liberty, as the freedom to loot. It is the freedom of thieves and highwaymen.

What is happening in Baghdad and in most of the other Iraqi cities, i.e., looting, plundering and killing recalls to the memory the ugliest Mongol invasion which was led by Hulagu. The Anglo-American invasion and colonization have started to wreck vengeance upon Iraqi people, hospitals, universities,

museums and libraries. It is the Zionist vengeance which aims at destroying the Iraqi present, future and, indeed, the heritage of its civilization.

The leaders of the invasion do not hide their Zionist tendencies. Their malicious actions leave no doubts about their Zionist tendencies which aim at destroying everything in Iraq through a broad deceptive operation which was facilitated by the disgraceful forsakenness of the Arab leaders. There are talks about a solution for the Palestinian issue after doing with Iraq. We do not know how could Zionizing and destroying Iraq lead to what is called the Palestinian State.

Dear brothers,

Most of the looting and arson gangs come from factions which have been organized by American, British and Israeli intelligence agencies. Unfortunately, Arab intelligence agencies also participated in organizing these gangs in addition to their crude connivance with the foreign occupying forces and their practical help to the looters and mobs. In many instances, the entrances of the public buildings were bombed by the Coalition Forces and the mobs were let in. That happened in the Iraqi

Central Bank building, the buildings of the Technology University and Al-Mustansiriyya University. Similarly, the hospitals and service offices were looted under the very noses of the foreign occupying forces.

O Iraqis, Nobody will help you other than God Almighty in addition to your bravery, unity and cooperation against this barbarian attack. We invite you to do the following immediately:

1. To form local armed committees to protect every quarter, ally and street by yourselves. Do not hesitate to shoot the gangs of looters. Protect the public offices, shops and houses from any aggression.

2. To form committees to protect universities, hospitals and public establishments from arson and destruction.

3. To confiscate the looted money by force and put them in mosques and Husayniyyas (Shi'ite mosques) to be returned later on to their legal owners.

4. To gather in mosques, Husayniyyas and churches to cooperate and collaborate to form local administrative

committees from the people and from the foreign occupant parties.

O Iraqis,

The second phase of the operations to destroy Iraq has started by attempts to provoke the facetious riots. This phase will smash into the infallible national unity, especially between the Sunnites and the Shi'ites. Yet, you need to be very mindful of these conspiracies and confront them.

Keep in your minds that all Shi'ites and Sunnites believe in one God, viz., Allah Almighty, and one Messenger, may the blessings and peace of God be upon him. They read one Quran and have one noble Sunna which unite them together. Unite, combine forces and together defend Iraq and the properties of our Christian brothers as if you are defending your properties. Beware putsches. As for the Arab leaders, we neither want medicine nor food from them neither, for the Iraqi treasures from which all of them are taken, suffice our people and nation. The systems of repression and confiscating freedoms have run away when they were badly needed. Now, they try to come back by propitiating the invading and occupying forces. The

opportunists self-seekers do not have any principle other than domination and exploitation.

Long live Iraq. Long live the national unity. Long live the Islamic unity. Let the brotherhood between Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen remain eternal. Go forward to the popular self-protection committees as a beginning for ousting the invading occupants.

Dr. Tahir Al-Bakka', a university teacher.
Dr. Abdul-Lateef Al-Mayyah, a university teacher.
Dr. Wameedh Jamal Umar Nadhmi, a nationalist thinker.
Ala' Edin Al-Mudarris, an Islamic thinker.
Muhammad Ash-Shawwaf, member of the Unified Iraq Association.
Dr. Dhafir Nadhum Al-'Ani, an academic researcher.

The first and most important person who wrote the form of this call was Dr. Wameedh Jamal, a nationalist thinker, who is in the mid sixties. In spite of his fame, I have neither heard about him before, nor knew him before that day as a result of the domineering conditions in Saddam's reign. I have found

him a wise, quiet, devoted to his country, modest and very polite man. As for the rest of the persons who signed that call, I know only brother Dhafir Al-‘Ani who is a teacher at the Political Sciences College of the University of Baghdad.

On Saturday evening, we heard from the foreign radio broadcasting that Al-Kindi and Al-Yarmouk hospitals have been looted by the mobs. So was Al-Mustansiriyya University, the Iraqi Central Bank and the Iraqi Museum. The BBC affirmed that the looting of the Iraqi Museum is considered one of the most severe losses that the Iraqis suffered from. The Iraqi Museum is a treasure of civilizations and heritages and one of the great museums in the whole world. Its cost is estimated to be tens of milliards of dollars. The stolen antiques could be more than 200000 pieces, among which the panorama that shows the king of Judah kneeling down with 3000 Jews of the captivated Jews of the Babylonish Captivity in front of Nebuchadnezzar,[3] founds, clay tablets, and antiquities that date back to 5000 BC. The Mosul Heritage Museum, whose importance is not less than the Museum in Baghdad, was also

[3] I asked an archeologist about this panorama and he told me that, there were numerous tableaus and other antiquities that belong to the

looted. It contained more than 100000 pieces that belong to the Assyrian Empire which ruled the world from Nineveh 3000 years ago. Therefore, next day, Sunday, April 13, I rushed with my brother-in-law Dr. Muhammad Al-Adhami, an archeology teacher at the College of Arts of Baghdad University, and a third friend to the Iraqi Museum to see what happened in the biggest theft in the Iraqi history. We reached there at about 10 a.m. and found a number of its officials and volunteers protecting it after the theft. They did not open the gate for us till they were sure that we came to defend the museum with brother Muhammad Al-Adhami, the archeology teacher. We toured the museum's galleries and corridors. We wished that we did not do that sad tour. It was so painful to see our heritage and history stolen in that barbarian criminal way. The looting was everywhere in the ransacked places, on top of which museums, banks and stores. It was evident that there were organized plans to facilitate those ransacks and to encourage the mobs to steal the country and its treasures, history, documents and libraries. Those actions were not chaotic at all. There are many evidences and eyewitnesses who prove that these crimes were planned and they took place

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Babylonish Captivity and they were among the stolen pieces from the Iraqi museums.

under the very noses of the invaders and with their encouragement. The looters were professional and they had specialized instruments for stealing. We found big iron pieces in one of the museum galleries which was used to pull down, break and destroy. We also found that certain galleries were entered not through the doors, but through the walls after drilling a big hole in the wall. Numerous glass containers, which were emptied before the war, were destroyed intentionally without any reason.

Furthermore, numerous buildings, service offices and documenting offices, stores, universities, libraries were completely burned without stealing anything from them. I myself toured most of the areas in Baghdad by my car in the three days, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, to see the actions of looting, plundering and intentional destruction of the components of the state and its public facilities. I found secret fingers, the prints of which were very evident. When you pass by the various huge stores on both sides of the highway in Rasafa, you find them in fire without the existence of any looter or plunderer there. The National Library, The Books and Documents House in Bab Al-Mu'azzam and the rare and

precious library of the Ministry of Awqaf (Endowments) in the middle of Baghdad were completely burned. In the midst of the war and destruction, nobody wanted to steal books, what was wanted was their destruction as such. That also applied to Al-Mustansiriyya University and the College of Arts in Waziriyya. As for the Central Bank, a trustful eyewitness, Abu Mustafa told me that he had seen with his own eyes the Central Bank immediately before it was ransacked. Its door was hit by launchers with no avail. The occupying forces, therefore, provided the looters with special bombs to destroy the door. After opening the door, American soldiers entered and stole an amount of money which could reach to half a million dollar. Then, they left it opened to allow the bank to be looted and emptied. The same thing happened in the University of Technology, where the disgraceful Coalition Forces entered the campus and broke the main gate with armours. They roamed the streets of the university, and then left it to be looted. That took place on Sunday, April 13. That was repeated again in the police and traffic stations, from which the looters stole the documents pertaining to annual licenses of cars' ownership, so that they could forge documents for the stolen cars. Thus, the

thieves and criminals would be the legal owners of the stolen cars.

An eyewitness told me that the Iraqi Museum was stolen after the Americans' entrance by a transporting vehicle which entered the courtyard of the museum through the gate so that professionals could steal it. I had also seen the stolen library of the museum which included rare books, sources and antique references.[4] The American had skeletons in the closet.

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[4] It is well known that Iraq has the most ancient civilizations in history. The contents of its civilization, heritage, all antiquities and cuneiform tablets are translated and recorded by all the international languages since long time ago that nearly amounts to a century. Therefore, analysts and specialists do not give much importance to the actions of ransacking the museums. This looting does not have an effective role in providing evidences for the Iraqi role in human civilization. The effect of these actions does not exceed considering them criminal actions to steal antiquities from a material point of view. The media's concentration on these actions is insinuated by the western civilization to belittle the Islamic civilization which has been substantiated in the minds of millions of Muslims nowadays and which is ready to emerge when dust is removed from it. This has actually happened when the despot and his party were ousted and Islamic civilization and morals appeared to withstand the aggression. No mal-information can wipe out the Islamic civilization however the despots tried hard. God says "Vain would they extinguish God's Light with their mouths but God will not allow but His Light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest." (At-Tawba, 32). Probably the Muslims' lack of interest in antiquities and building museums for them is one of the Islamic civilization unique characteristics. They have erected their civilization and recorded their history to humanity without turning back. By this,

The same friend told me that he heard from the Americans who stayed in the Meridian Hotel that the occupation of Baghdad and the following looting were done in intentional collaboration with Israeli, Lebanese and Iraqi spies. 700 person from the Israeli Mossad, 500 persons from the pro-Israel partisans of the Kata'ib Lebanese Party, along with a number of Iraqi spies who came with the invading forces. The truthful of this information is based on the eyewitness who communicated it from the American officers.

Yesterday, Monday, April 14, while passing by the Meridian and the American forces stationed in front of it, I had seen a marauding mob of more than100 persons coming from the direction of the stationed American forces. They were attacking the public office opposite the hotel and near the Firdaws square that faces the hotel. They were accompanied by

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they are enlightened by God's saying "Do they not travel through the earth, and see what was the end of those before them (who did evil)? God brought utter destruction on them, and similar (fates await) those who reject God." (Muhammad, 10). Thus, they have registered the histories of nations, kings and prophets through the texts of the Quran and Sunna (the Prophet's Traditions). This was done by historians, writers of biographies and story-tellers such as At-Tabari, Ibn Al-Atheer, Ibn Katheer, Ibn Al-Jauzy, etc. Yet, acheology and its components, such as tablets, antiquities and historical sites are

a number of photographers and journalists. Like rabbles, they broke the doors. While looting, the cameras pictured them to misinform the international public opinion that such are the behaviours of the Iraqi people. They wanted to deform their image and take revenge on their heroic resistance, and, consequently, deform the image of the Arabs and Muslims in the whole world. Yet, as the Arabic proverb says "the robe of a lie is very short," and soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take.

I myself had seen the American guarding the Ministry of Oil and its establishments as well as the church in Karrada. Yet, they let the German, Russian and French embassies be plundered. These are the ironies and barbarian images of the greatest civilization that America claims to have. The Americans claim that they have come to liberate Iraq, whereas the truth is that their mouths water for its oil. The most important thing they have done in the south and north has been to take control over 600 wells between Basra and Nasiriyya, viz., the wells of Rumaila and Majnoon, and 400 wells in Karkook and Mosul. As for the country and its infrastructure,

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considered sources of historical knowledge and records of ancient nations and peoples excavated from the earth just like other treasures.

system and state, let them go to hell! These are the holders of the present civilization, the callers for globalization and the defenders of human rights, freedom and democracy.

This is the bitter and real image of Iraq after the barbarian invasion, the intentional and organized looting. We do not claim that all Iraqis are righteous and saints and that there are no thieves among them. Nevertheless, spontaneous stealing and ransacking in their normal sizes do not destroy a large country like Iraq. Furthermore, they can be controlled easily. What happened actually was intentional vandalizing and destruction after the invaders paved the way for the marauding mobs to do that. As mentioned before, eyewitnesses talked about these crimes. We have seen them with our own eyes: most of the thefts were organized and not spontaneous. The thieves knew very well what they were going to take and what to leave. They knew the books, papers, documents, stores and offices they were going to burn. Moreover, they were equipped with special tools and inflammatory materials to accelerate the burning and destruction in addition to looting. The American stand, which preferred to leave the country without a state or system on the pretext that the Iraqis must choose their government and system

by themselves, represented truth based on false intentions. It was the one that set looting free. If services and security were not controlled by a central body, what had been left from the infrastructure, security and peace would be destroyed. This is a well known axiom, but the invaders have ignored it on purpose. Destroying the Iraqi infrastructure, documents and civilization has made this war the separating line between past and present Iraq. The enemies intend to form present Iraq as they wish. This war has been intended to end and cancel every single previous trace as if the country is to form now with a new start, to build a new state starting from zero. There are no rights, no documents, no fixed traditions, no history and no civilized evidence to what has happened and what will happen. There should be no proof of any right, action, building or even destruction that belongs to the pre-war stage. It is the accursed devil's plan who dominated the invaders' minds and their Zionists and Zionized aides in America, England and the other countries, whose consciences have allowed them to participate in betraying Iraq and destroying its civilization.

Honest Iraqis resisted these disgraceful acts and crimes which overwhelmed the country like a raging flood. Both

Sunnite and Shi'ite religious scholars condemned these actions and declared them sins. Armed committees were formed to stop these actions and restore the stolen objects and public money to mosques and Husayniyyas. Young men, who were true to their country and religion, protected what was left in the public offices.

In the museum, one of the volunteers defended it with a stick. He asked me to provide him with a weapon and more volunteers. I said, " I don't have a weapon for you." So, he said, "If you can take me home, I can bring a small arm (a rifle)." Transportation was then very difficult. So I took him to Beirut square (Palestine street), brought the rifle and came back to the museum. He, his name was Muhammad, said, "With my stick, I've driven three lorries of thieves away." So, I said, "God bless you and all the true men like you."

Before we left the museum, a group of British journalists came to the museum and we talked to them. We described how the looting of the museum, Central Bank and universities was done under the supervision and approval of the invading forces. They protected the Ministry of Oil and did not protect the museum and the other important places in Iraq. The British

journalist apologized on behalf of his government which stained its hands with those crimes and did not heed the International Law and legitimacy. We said goodbye to everybody and went to Palestine Meridian Hotel which was surrounded by the American armoured vehicles. We wanted to give a copy of our Call issued in Dr. Wameedh's house to the journalists and satellite channels. Brother Zafir took over that task. So I took him to that abhorrent place because of the existence of the Coalition Forces there. After participating in an Iraqi demonstration there, I went back home.

I resumed wandering in centuries-old Baghdad, which was destroyed by the Mongols of the present age. Those were aided by the blessings and facilities of the Arabs and the hypocrites who cooperated with the war merchants and red Indian killers to secure control over America and the whole world after that. The tours of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were not less tragic and horrifying than those of the previous weeks of the war, the days of looting and destruction, the days of death and murder or the days of mal-informing and deforming truth. We cannot but say "to God we belong and to Him is our return."

Early in the fourth week of the war, Al-Kindi Hospital in an-Nahdha square, Ibn Al-Baladi and Hammad Shihab hospitals were looted. As mentioned earlier, after looting them, the important government offices in Baghdad, such as those of the army, police and traffic, were set in fire. On Monday, April 14, I saw the American forces guarding a grand church near Kahramana square in Karrada, whereas the museums, libraries, ministries, mosques and main public offices were left unprotected till the end of the week, Friday, April 18, when the Coalition Forces started to deploy their forces in Baghdad in the fifth week of the war.

According to eyewitnesses and analysts, the major groups that participated in the looting were the following:

1. Iraqi, Arab, Anglo-American and other marauding mobs.

2. A group of people who bear spite against Saddam's regime and his party who were disadvantaged and expatriated from authority and power during the Ba'athi regime.

3. A group of pro-Iran politicians who believe that they need money to finance their future political actions. Some of those people smuggled stolen money and antiquities to Iran to be sold and transformed into money. I was told this by some people and God knows better its truth.

4. Some Ba'athis who anticipate to have an importance role in the coming secret actions and in the building of a new party once more. Those could have made use of their previous posts in the regime and the secrets at their disposal to access huge amounts of the public money which no one else had access to.

5. Pro-Israeli and pro-Coalition Forces spies and vandals who were ordered by Israel and those forces to maraud, destroy, spread chaos and burn documents, books and Iraqi heritage. They wanted to attain certain American and Zionist political objectives to direct the Iraqi future according to their interests and plans.

6. Other pro-Arab, Kurdish and Turkish traitors who aimed at attaining certain objectives in Iraq or at finding specific secrets.

Saddam’s Destiny after the Regime’s Downfall

On Friday, April 11, Saddam has disappeared completely. There are many hypotheses concerning his destiny. He could have been killed or wounded during the heavy bombing and shelling of Adhamiyya, Mansour or the secret republican palace underground passageways. The Coalition Forces could have located his place, killed him and cleared his body without announcement. After taking hold of the media near the end of the war and preventing the neutral media form following up the events after Tuesday, April 8, the Americans wanted to bring their information plan to perfection by burying his secrets along with the secrets of the war, embargo, war against Kuwait and war against Iran, in which America was an influential and instigator party. The last and least possible hypothesis is that Saddam has hid in a place which he has prepared in advance for times of necessity. The near future will disclose this.

Probably, Saddam’s destiny will remain a perplexing secret, just like that of Hitler which remained so since the World War II. In both cases, America and the international Zionism are the ones who benefit from keeping both secrets as a result of the serious and great consequences that took place after Hitler,

and after the more serious and greater consequences that are expected to happen after Saddam. The post-Saddam age is planned to be the age of Americanizing the world, terrorizing it by the tyrant American power, removing all possible dangers to the Israeli security, marginating the role of the UN or even canceling it, leaving the door wide-opened for globalization and practically establishing for the new international system which is to be led by one pole, viz., USA.

A trustful eyewitness told me that he was in Al-Firdaws square opposite to Palestine Meridian hotel on Wednesday noon, April 9, the day of Saddam's downfall, when Saddam's statue was brought down in the middle of the square by pulling it with a rope by an American armoured vehicle. The angry mobs started to break it down into pieces. Some tried to humiliate Saddam by kicking the statue or treading on it. The American media pictured that dramatic scene and tried to make it a moral symbol of Saddam's downfall by broadcasting it on and on again. They wanted to destroy the moral spirit and dwindling hope of his supporters and aides. It was an open, specific and clear message: there is no hope for Saddam and his regime to come back to life. The curtain is drawn down on

Saddam's age and it will never be staged again. The Arabs has received the message immediately, and then the Iraqis got it gradually.

By recording this story, I do not intend to expose that sudden and tragic image which has torn the hearts of many Iraqis to pieces irrespective of their stands towards Saddam and his regime. They lived in Saddam's age and got familiar to its negative and positive aspects. Today, however, they are facing an unknown and unidentified future. Nothing is clear from this future other than the phases of occupation, dependence, lack of sovereignty and independence. As for the other phases, they will remain as secrets that disclose gradually. The Iraqis will gulp down the catastrophes of these phases one by one. They are afraid of the unknown, chaos, lack of security and order and the awakening of dissentions which are so numerous in Iraq. If they believe that the American promises to give freedom and liberation have been good-intended, the Iraqis are apprehensive of the test and problems awaiting them in this free life which they have not been accustomed to for the last decades.

To finish the story of the eyewitness, he said that he saw an American soldier approaching the broken statue, going to the

head and kissing it while saying “Saddam Hussein was the only one in the whole world who challenged America and said ‘No’ to it.”

What did that image indicate to? Did it indicate to the American tyranny and arrogance and the worlds fear of it? Or did it indicate to the bravery of that man [Saddam] who was killed by his dominance and stubbornness even with those who wanted to save him? Could it be a message to the people who begot that unique challenge and said ‘No’ to America?

If the condition of the wounded and disappointed Iraqi people as a result of the destructive war could have met the defeated leader Saddam Hussein, the following dialogue might have taken place:

Iraqi Condition: What is the main reason of the defeat?

Saddam: The corrupted retinue, party and army and Republican Guards leaders, for they did not fight after the savage bombing of the airport and the media channels.

Iraqi Condition: Why did you opt for the dictator regime to rule Iraq?

Saddam: It is not easy to rule a contumacious people like the Iraqi one. They killed the [previous] king, his family and ministers and dragged their bodies in the streets of Baghdad. Then, they killed savagely Abdul-Kareem Qasim and his aides without a trial, in spite of the fact that he saved them from the pro-British royal rule. In times of rebellion and turbulence in the past, they killed Umar, Uthman, Ali, Husayn, Zayd, Al-Ameen and a lot of their other leaders. I had to be autocratic to impose my control and lead these varied groups, currents and nationalities.

Iraqi Condition: Why did the Americans decide to oust you?

Saddam: Although I came, just like many other rulers, by an American train with neither British nor Zionist oppositions, after the American and Israeli betrayal in the war against Kuwait, I decided to revolt against them, fight the Jews and support the Intifada. I considered the Palestinian and Quds issue the core of my political action. Then, I established the Quds army, supported and compensated the martyrs and Mujahideen (fighters) in Palestine. I believe that Palestine was the main cause in my downfall, just as it was the cause of killing King Faysal bin Abdul-Aziz in 1975.

Iraqi Condition: If you are still alive, what are your accusations to the Americans concerning Iraq?

Saddam: I accuse them of the following:

1. Their war was illegal and they will pay dearly for it, not only to Iraq, but also to the whole world.

2. They knew very well that I did not have mass-destructive weapons because they were the ones who provided me with them to be used against Iranians and the Kurds. They are the ones who destroyed them completely with the hands of the searching committees, who were mostly spies except for very few of them who did not exceed 20% of them. To expose the espionage strategy, some of them resigned. The coming future will prove that they did use mass-destructive weapons, including the nuclear weapon, to downfall Iraq and assassinate its state in a dirty and disgraceful manner that does neither befit the western morals nor the great states.

3. They stole the Iraqi civilization, heritage and museums. They destroyed my state and burned it to avenge themselves of the people who confronted them and did not allow them to occupy their country. The people who unified with each other

for two weeks till the moment of betrayal, treason and horror came to occupy the bride of cities, Baghdad.

4. They lied to the whole world. In their new international system and globalization, they have transformed, as I have said many times, from being liberators and defenders of legitimacy, freedom and plurality to invaders, occupants, thieves and oil-pirates so that they can attain hegemony over the whole world.

Iraqi Condition: Are you going to rule Iraq again?

Saddam: No, I am not. My role is over as well as my fate in ruling Iraq. Probably within a period to three to thirty years, the Iraqis will wish for my return. They will realize the goods in my regime in spite of its evils. But then, it will be too late for great Iraq will regain its being the heaven for which the greedy and colonist look. At that time corruption will be spread everywhere that it overflows the honest neighbours. Moreover, the American-Zionist influence will be immeasurable and your identity will be lost; may God forbid.

Iraqi Condition: What is your advice to the Iraqis?

Saddam: I advice their evil ones to take the American stick and hit the evil Arabs and Iranis with it. As for the good ones, I advice them not to trust the hypocrites and opportunists as I did myself and, consequently, fell deeply down. Let them depend on the experienced and trustworthy people to re-build our beloved Iraq, as we have been advised by our Lord "to hire the strong and the trustful." In hard times, I could not find in my retinue, party and aides the strong and honest. Thus, Iraq was lost and so did my beautiful dream in the midst of the Zionist turmoil and extensive criminal plan.

Iraqi Condition: In case you come back to rule Iraq, what will you wish for?

Saddam: I wish I knew what was hidden for me after March 20, I would have repented from injustice, tyranny and subjugation of my people. I would have resorted to justice, which is the real base for judgment. I would have sought good relations with God and the believers and broke relations with the infidels, hypocrites and wicked retinue which exhausted and terminated my reign. Just like termites, they were that destroyed stealthily everything with the passage of years. At that time, I would have died peacefully; my defeat would have been victory in the

measures of God and the believers; I would have truly served my nation; I would have fulfilled my duty honestly concerning the honest Muslim leaders, princes and ordinary men; and I would have drawn the way to safety to my country and people however long it might be. Till the last moment, however, the love for presidency, authority and dignity, prevented me from siding with the belief and trust in the good believers. My aides scared me of the defeat and loss in both this life and the hereafter. Thus, I lost my authority and reputation and got remorse, gloating of my enemies on my misfortune, and eternal loss of Iraq.

The American Soldier in Baghdad

The Iraqi citizen has not seen the American soldier before, and does not wish to see him on an Arab, Muslim or, of course, Iraqi land. He reminds the Iraqi of the times of colony and dependence when the British and French soldiers came to the Arab land to occupy. That happened early in the previous century after World War I and after the fall down of the Ottoman Caliphate, which used to unite the Muslims in one state in spite of its backward administration which characterized the last era of its long reign that lasted for 5 centuries.

The American forces deployed in Baghdad after Friday, April 11, with their tanks and armours represented a very painful scene. The image of occupation has become a reality. Only after the end of the looting and plundering acts which lasted for nearly a whole week, the Americans descended from their armoured vehicles. The looting and plundering took place under their very noses, if not with their encouragement. They took the main positions round Baghdad in Abu Ghraib, airport, Rashid Camp, Sha'ab International Stadium, Nahrawan, Rashidiyya, the Tourist Island, Taji, Baghdad College

Secondary School, most of the presidential palaces, the republican palaces and other fortified places. They have benefited from the fortified places which were built by Saddam to fortify his regime. Unfortunately, they have become the occupants' fortified positions, a matter that hindered the Fidaiyyin operations which were expected in Baghdad. However, there were limited and scattered ones performed by a number of the irritated persons in the allies and streets of Baghdad when the American passed them by.

I imagined the American soldier to be a barbarian colonist who killed aimlessly. I was surprised, however, to see young men in their twenties who were armed to the teeth. Their arms did not become them because they looked nearer to luxury and effeminacy than to militarism, killing or horrifying. I saw them and they looked as if they were ashamed of the terrorist and mercenary role in which their tyrant government had put them. Since they have come to occupy my country under false pretexts and faulty sense without legitimacy or moral bases, I did not want to approach or talk to the American soldiers. Nevertheless, I came across two incidents in Baghdad which show that those soldiers felt ashamed and felt that they were not

practising the role they desired to play, namely the role of the people who rank first in their civilization among the peoples of the world. Their people glorify freedom, democracy and human rights. How could they violate all those principles with the devil's instigation and allures and be led by Zionism in American and Israel?

The first incidence occurred on Thursday, April 10, when the Americans attacked Adhamiyya. While the armoured vehicles were chasing the Fidaiyyin, one of the armoured leaders thought that a Fidaiy hid in one of the old houses in As-Safeena. He bombed an inflammatory projectile at the house which was set in fire. One of the soldiers descended and pushed the door open to find a group of children and women crying inside it. He shouted "No, no, no!" Thus, another soldier changed the head of the launcher with another capsule and bombed the house again with a carbon projectile that extinguished the fire. After that, they wen to another place looking for the Fidaiyyin.

The other incident occurred to a little eight-years-old Iraqi girl. She lived in an apartment in one of the allies of Adhamiyya. She was rushing down the apartment to escape the

heavy shelling. When she reached the door of the building and opened it, she found an American soldier who was taking aim at the building. Though she was in that terror and horror, she said unconsciously in a simple English, “How are you?” That civilized American did not expect that from the little girl, so he answered while addressing his companions “No, no, no!” He was shocked by that Iraqi little girl who affected his civilization to the very core. He tried to justify to himself, his people and government, “Bo, no, no. we are neither terrorists nor killers of these innocent people. We follow orders.” Exactly as that scared American prisoner of war who uttered these words in Nasiriyya. It is Bush and his aides’ crime who follow this colonizing policy. A policy that is fond of oil and crave to seize it. It is not the crime of the American people who love peace, justice and freedom.

I was surprised and I felt that those American soldiers were not terrorists, or at least, did not want to be so. Yet, this does not pardon them from the responsibility of the crimes of occupation and aggression committed against our peaceful people. They have to pay dearly for these crimes if they do not get very quickly out of the country and return back to their

places. The coming future will prove the regret of the aggressors at their acts. God is lying in ambush for every unjust tyrant and despot.

Different Sects and Nationalities Issue

For five days, looting and plundering continued in Baghdad, but it stopped or slowed down a great deal today, Wednesday, April 16. The efforts of the sincere people, both Sunnite and Shi'ite Fatawa [religious opinions], religious scholars in addition to the armed popular committees, which were formed in mosques and Husayniyyas, succeeded in forming reactive movements to the looting. These efforts represent a noble and worthy phenomenon that goes in harmony with the good spirit that characterizes all the sects and nationalities of the Iraqi people.

Cars started to bring back lots of the stolen materials and public money to the mosques and Husayniyyas. Lots of those who were shaken or were pushed by competition to loot because they believed that the public money would go to the hands of the criminals and vagabonds, whereas, they deserved it more than those ones. Those people were awakened. When informed that marauding is a prohibited sin, they realized that they had committed a mistake. Some apologized by saying that they wanted to hold these instruments, machines and money with

them in trust because there was no state or any body that acted in its behalf. Others were forced by the armed committees, by their neighbours or by noble advisers to bring back the stolen objects.

This phenomenon indicates to the awakening and increasing awareness of the planned conspiracy. It also shows the condemnation to the suspicious role played by the Americans and their allies in encouraging that abnormal behaviour. Furthermore, it shows the deterioration in the feelings of disappointment and despair and the reaction to the unjust aggression and tyrant regime all through the previous decades. Finally, it shows the restoration of awareness of those who despaired of and hated Saddam's oppressive regime. After the hysteric looting, those people awoke to the fact that they were destroying themselves, their lives, their beautiful world and their wounded Iraq. Therefore, they repented and gave up looting and plundering.

With the end of that fierce campaign and destructive chaos, the country regained peace and security from the symptoms of that sudden disease. Yet, people are now apprehensive of what is more dangerous than that temporary

hysteric disease: that is religious and racial dissention in a country well-known for its various races and sects. People now believe that those greedy enemies wish to see the fire of dissention burning and if that happens, nobody except for God knows when it will extinguish. They have been fully aware of this issue and the enemies conspiracy to make Iraq like Lebanon, a topic that the western and Zionist media over dwelt on. Thus, both the Sunnite and Shi'ite religious scholars are put to the alert and have got ready to defuse any possible dissention. Every power, group and distinguished personality is talking about unity, awareness, peace and coordination.

The enemies have tried to break out racial and religious dissention by different methods. They wanted to connect between looting and sects and said that the Sunnite Saddam had oppressed the Shi'ite, and therefore, after the regime ousting, most of the looters in Thawra quarter were Shi'it. They also tried to spread a rumour among the Sunnite that most of the looters were Shi'ite because they wanted to take hold of the financial resources of the country to be able to fight the Sunnite financially. Among the Shi'ite, they spread the rumour that the foremost danger facing them was the Sunnite represented by the

Wahhabis. As a result, the Shi'ite got ready to face what was called "Wahhabi danger," in spite of the fact that thenumber of Wahhabis among the Sunnites is insignificant and they do not have any notable role among them. The Wahhabis are followers of the religious school that abide by the text which was established by Ahmad bin Hanbal and Ibn Taymiyya. Most of the Iraqi Sunnites follow Abu Hanifa or Ash-Shafi'i. Nevertheless, the enemies want to break out dissention by all means.

The enemies have tried to instigate dissention and fighting among the Shi'ites themselves, especially in Najaf Al-Ashraf where they originated a bloody dispute about Marji'iyya [highest religious authority]. When they let As-Sayyid Abdul-Majeed Al-Khu'I go to Najaf, he was assassinated few days after his arrival on last Thursday, April 10, according to the news agencies. The situation culminated to the besiege of the highest religious authority in Al-Hawza [religious school responsible for issuing fatawa], viz., As-Sayyid Ali As-Sistani. He was threatened to be ousted from Najaf. Yet, his followers and family defended him. Great demonstrations of his followers in the Gulf States demanded the end of his and unity of the

highest religious authority. Fatawas were issued in addition to numerous calls which were issued by religious scholars in Najaf to reconcile the dissenting parties and restore the unity of the highest religious authority.

All this can give hints that the situation may explode and religious disputes, whether among the Shi'ites or between the Shi'ites and Sunnites. However, God is more powerful and Merciful than America and Zionism who try to steer disputes behind the scenes. If God chooses, Iraqi people sagacity, originality and experience in confronting crisis will check the enemies' attempts to ignite the fire of racial and religious dissentions. The day that followed those critical situations have proven the spirit of unity and coordination between the Sunnites and Shi'ites which have taken the form of mutual meetings, agreements and Fatawas. Their unity is harder than stone. This spirit has been the clear assurance of the ability to confront all crises and dissentions that may block the way to reconstruction.

The second face of this issue is the racial one. The Iraqi people is made of Sunnites and Shi'ites; Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen; and Muslims and Christians. Yet, they are united by their love for their country and their respect to each other.

Belief, mediocre, wisdom, public interests, peace and national unity are shared aspects and principles that guide all the people.

The danger lies in postponing the formation of a new Iraqi government to attain certain secret aims for those who look for denomination and disturbance. The Americans want to bring up denomination and racial dissention to break out long-lasting civil war. Thus, they will be able to control over the country's resources and treasures for long decades and to indulge the country in dissention, crises and debts till it becomes at their beck and call. They believe in the English "divide and rule" principle or the principle of "give him death so that he accepts fever" as the Iraqis say.

If we want to avoid exaggeration in mistrusting the American and say that their interests in the region do not agree with dissentions and civil wars, we advice them to form a national government quickly and let the Iraqis dress their wounds. After they dominated the country and ousted Saddam's regime, the Americans are now the ones responsible for security and order inside the country, and therefore, they should let them form their state.

The Americans come to occupy Baghdad from the south and west. They penetrated Baghdad' walls and reached the middle of Baghdad in Karkh. They entered Mansour, Yarmouk, Hurriyya, and then went further into Kadhimiyya and 'Itayfiyya. From there, they crossed to Rasafa in Bab Ash-Sharji and Adhamiyya. from the south, they advanced quickly from Rashid Camp to Baghdad Al-Jadeeda and Baladiyyat and occupied the Directorate of General Security. From the north, they proceeded their advance from Taji till Baghdad's Gate, then Al-Muheet and finally the Intelligence Centre in Kadhimiyya. On Tuesday, April 8, they performed a landing north-east Baghdad in Rashidiyya on As-Sadda at the outskirts of Thawra City. Advancing easily towards Qanat Al-Jaysh, they reached Sumer and Bunook where they met with their forces which came from Rashidiyya and Sha'ab. They entered Sleikh. The final stage in occupying Baghdad was reached when the forces coming from the south, north, east and west met in Adhamiyya and Bab Al-Mu'azzam.

On Thursday, the war of Adhamiyya took place. Adhamiyya fought heroically for two reasons. First, the Fidaiyyin were there, and second, Saddam, in his last days before his downfall, and his comrades were there.

In spite of its large area and dense population, Thawra is considered the second area that fell down in Baghdad. Just like Mosul, Karkook, Ba'qooba, Ramadi and Tikrit, Thawra did notfight because those cities felt that fighting after the fall of the capital was useless. There were other justifications for the people of Thawra for not fighting the occupants. First, the Coalition Forces came after sending a great amount of opponents through the southern cities. As a result, people were confused between fighting the invaders and defending the regime in Najaf and Karbala. Some opponents to the regime succeeded in neutralizing the Shi'ite in the fighting against Saddam. That had an immense effect on changing the stand of the tribes in the south and the Shi'ite in Baghdad. Another reason was the effect of the shock and horror plan and the psychological war launched by the Coalition Forces against all the Iraqis. Thawra had a considerable share in that war due to the great number of those who escaped from the hell of the

inimical bombing and went outside Baghdad, especially via Ba'qooba-Baghdad road near their houses. After seeing the regime reeling to and fro, the people of Thawra decided to suspend hostilities with the occupants. Besides, originally, they neither liked Saddam nor supported him. As everybody knows, they were forced to get on with the regime.

This is not said in defense of Thawra and its people, their genuineness and patriotism do not need proofs. My aim is to pass on reality and what happened actually in those harsh days. As for the rumour which said that they were the instigators of the looting and plundering operations, it is need of proofs. The large number of looters from Thawra can be attributed to many reasons. First, Thawra has the highest population density in Baghdad and the rate of looters depends on percentage. Second, lots of the labourers and public officials who receive limited income live there; and as Imam Ali (may God be pleased with him) said, "If poverty were a man, I would have killed him." Thisrd, most of the people living in Thawra are Shi'ite who used to oppose the regime. Fourth, the misfortunes from which the people of Thawra had suffered during the three decades of Saddam's regime, made them look for the time in which they

can avenge themselves against it. Nevertheless, the Shi'ite and Sunnite religious scholars in Thawra stood firmly against looting and plundering. They issued a Fatwa to return the stolen objects, protect them and keep them safe and sound. The people of Thawra heeded that Fatwa and I saw lots of them volunteering to protect the museum, hospitals, schools and universities. Thus, the attempt to disfigure the image of the people of Thawra in the eyes of the people of Baghdad was performed mainly by those secret sides who wanted to sow the seeds of discord between the Sunnites and the Shi'ites. To attain that aim, they tired to make use of the looting, plundering, arson and destruction and over-exaggerated them.

The other groups in Baghdad, such as the Kurds, lots of them were martyred during the fighting against the foreign invasion, an indication of their patriotic and fraternal feeling with their Arab brothers. I know two of them who were martyred in Adhamiyya. Those noble patriotic stands had nothing to do with the official stands of the rulers of Kurdstan who allied with the invading forces. That also applied to the Turkmen, who took up the same positions with the Arabs and Kurds. The same thing applied to the Christians, who

condemned from the beginning the war against Iraq and its illegitimacy. Most of the Christians in Iraq are Catholics and Orthodox who do not approve of the Zionized Protestant stand in America and Britain. Prior to this, they are patriotic Iraqis who love their country. The Pope in Rome also rejected the war and called for peace. He called for stopping the war repeatedly during the war.

As for the cooperation and coordination between Sunnite and Shi'ite, I have been informed that there were meetings held between the religious scholars of both sects in Baghdad, Karbala' and Najaf. They have unified their stand against the occupation. Both sects are aware and beware the secret conspiracies to utilize the dissention for the benefit of the enemies. They rank together to confront the invaders and call for forming a new national government which is to be based on national unity, justice and peace. These noble efforts, which call for unity and bringing people closer to each other, may be better utilized in the near future. Numerous meetings have been held in Adhamiyya, Thawra and Kadhimiyya to coordinate between the stands of the two sects. During the fourth week of the war, many erudite religious scholars from both sects

presided by Sheik Waleed Al-‘Al’dhami, the poet, and Sheik Ibraheem Al-Mudarris attended the meetings.

A Sheik from Diyala told me that when the Shi’ite Badr forces entered certain towns in Diyala, they treated the Sunnite people politely and respectfully. They even prayed in congregation with the Sunnites in a Sunnite mosque. They also did their best to keep order and security, and to protect the public offices and money.

Since the 1970s, I have had strong relations with Shi’ite men of letters and religious scholars such as Sheik Muhammad Mahdi Al-Khalisi’s group, the group of the late Sayyid Muhammad Sadiq As-Sadr and some members of the Da’wa party.

I believe the unifying and coordinating approach is the one which is going to lead to the Islamic unity. The true Quranic coordination is the one which is based on the Quran and Sunna. It is the one which enhances the meanings of unity, peace, coexistence and juridical sciences; and the one which avoids disputes, fanaticism and fabrications. These are the bases of my numerous books and articles in this field. I used to

publish my works in both Sunnite and Shi'ite newspapers and magazines. I published in "Al-Fikr Al-Islami," "Ar-Ra'i," Al-Kawthar," "Al-Fatwa," etc. For instance, I published in "Al-Kawthar" magazine, which is issued in Najaf, an article entitled "An-Najaf Conference," "Umar and Husayn: Two Faces of One Islamic Original Approach." In "Al-Fikr Al-Islami," I published "Quranic Media: A Unifying and Coordinating Approach," "As-Safawi-Ottoman Dispute and Its Effect on Crystallizing Denomination," "The Middle Nation," etc. During the 1990s, God has enabled me to publish many books about unity and coordination between the Islamic sects. My efforts were parts of the efforts of many Sunnite and Shi'ite religious scholars and thinkers to solve the problem of denomination. Prior to and after publishing my works, they were reviewed by Shi'ite and Sunnite religious scholars, e.g., the most erudite Muhammad Baqir Al-Quraishi, the late Sayyid Muhammad Baqir As-Sadr, As-Sayyid Hysayn As-Sadr, etc.

To recapitulate, the gate to dialogue, conformity, unity and coordination is widely opened in Iraq. The different circumstances in Iraq nowadays render unity and coordination essential elements of the Iraqi Islamic work in the post-war

period. A new generation who believes in God, His Messenger, unity, coordination, conformity to the basics, shared principles and good intentions will emerge to make Iraq-of-the-future a symbol of fruitful variety and useful coexistence among all its sects, races and religions. After ousting the occupants and gluttonous enemies, who are waiting in the lookout, these beliefs will be the motives to build our beloved country. I God wills, He will protect Iraq and its people from every evil contention.

To resist the occupation, the unity between the Sunnite and Shi'ite is very probable in Iraq, a matter which will pave the way for establishing a national government that involves all the groups of the people. To attain this unity, a number of elements need to be provided. First, different people need to have good intentions and will to affirm the bases of unity. They need to rank together against the enemies. The two sects need to agree on the conditions of coexistence and on the Quranic coordination, which calls for agreement on the bases, for expanding the circle of shared principles and for dependence on Fiqh [Islamic jurisprudence] of intentions. The two sects need to comprehend the present critical condition, the difficult post-

war circumstances of the country and the collapse of the infrastructure, order and general security. Moreover, they need to avoid blind fanaticism and stop accusing each other of atheism. It is crystal clear for the person deeply interested in the Iraqi people conditions and noble characteristics that good intentions and these things are available in all the Iraqi groups, religions and races.

In this respect, Imam As-Sadiq (peace be upon him) said, “Beware dispute in religion, for it results in suspicion and leads to hypocrisy.”

Part of fanaticism and dispute is not giving any of the pillars of the Prophetic era, i.e., the family of the Messenger and his Companions, their due status. We know as well as both sects the relations of fraternity, love, shared Jihad and marriage among the family members of the Messenger and his Companions. We know that Imam of ‘Alawi family, our master ‘Ali (may God be pleased with him) called his sons Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman. Then his sons and grandsons followed his example. The revolutionist among them was the one who defended Islam and the principles of Shura [mutual consultation]. Their ruler was the one who yearned to rule in

accordance with the Quran and Sunna and who did his best to protect the bases of Islam from being neglected with the passage of time. One of the canons of God in the universe, which applies to the Muslims and non-Muslims, is that the glamour of revolutions fades away with the passage of time. There are reasons for each case. This is the creation of God, and it is His will. In this respect, the Messenger (may the blessing and peace of God be upon him) said, “If Islam were stripped away, piece by piece, the people will hold tight to the next one. The first thing taken would be ruling and government, and the last of them is the prayer.” He (may the blessing and peace of God be upon him) also said, “Islam started as an alien and it will return again as an alien. Paradise is the reward of the aliens.”

One of the glorious events in the Prophetic generation and the following generation is the marriage between Umar (may God be pleased with him) and Um Kulthoom daughter of Ali (may God be pleased with him) and the marriage between Ali (may God be pleased with him) and Asma’ bint ‘Umays, wife of Abu Bakr As-Siddeeq and the mother of his son Muhammad bin Abu Bakr. Imam Ja’far As-Sadiq used to repeat his famous saying to the one who did know the value of Abu Bakr (may

God be pleased with him), “Abu Bakr has given birth to me twice,” in reference to the fact that he was the father of his mother, Um Farwa, and his grandmother, Asma’.

In these difficult circumstances, let every one of us try to eliminate alienation and darkness from his world and fight the devil and his aides. This cannot be attained except by abandoning fanaticism and fabrications and going back to the Quran, Sunna, biographies of the righteous ancestors of the early Islamic period. Let us seek unity concerning the matters we agree upon, and when we disagree, let us pardon each other. At that time, we can reduce the effect of the different sects, which our enemies want to increase and utilize to obtain their interest.

May God reward our Zaidi brothers, who called for the slogan of unity since the first Hijri century by saying “The rule of a good Imam is acceptable even though there exists a better one.” They settled the matter and accepted the rule of Abu Bakr and Umar and rejected the schooling of the Saffeen Battle which dissected the Muslims into two sects. At that time, all the Muslims ranked behind Ali (may God be pleased with him), the legal Caliph, and considered Mu’awiya an oppressor who

should be treated as such. Some people have no justifications to concentrate on Imam Ali and raise him the rank of gods. They are not justified in denying the merits of his mates and companions, who were the companions of the Messenger (may the blessing and peace of God be upon him), or even accusing them of being sinners. Beware, dear brothers, to resort to fabrications and false tales to enhance fanaticism. God Almighty says, "Say 'O People of the Book! Exceed not in your religion the bounds (of what is proper) trespassing beyond the truth.'" (Al-Ma'ida, 80).

In the first Friday, April 18, after the end of the war, more than 250000 demonstrated in Adhamiyya. They called for condemning the foreign invasion and asked for an Islamic national government. They carried unifying slogans, such as "No for Occupation and Secularism; Yes for the Islamic Unity," while they carried copies of the Quran and Iraqi flags, and "Sunnite and Shi'ite brothers: We do not Sell this homeland." The orator for that day was Sheik Dr. Ahmad Al-Kubaisi. He is one of the popular personalities who is well-known by both Sunnites and Shi'ites for his wide knowledge and attractive style in the religious programmes which were broadcasted in both

Iraq and the Gulf states. In the last few years, he lived abroad because the previous regime did not cope with his medium approaches that call for unity and coordination among Muslim sects. In spite of the fact that he did not represent an opposing current abroad, his quick return to Baghdad and his taking the lead in delivering speeches in the first Friday in Adhamiyya after ousting Saddam's regime have given him a distinctive position as one of the effective Islamic characters in Baghdad in these dangerous circumstances. Another Muslim personality who had distinctive presence in that great demonstration was the Islamic poet Waleed Al-Adhami who recited an impressive poem there. Sheik Mu'ayyad Ibraheem Al-Adhami, Imam and orator of Abu Hanifa mosque, Sheik Ibraheem Muneer Al-Mudarris, Sheik Ibraheem Taha, and another great number of religious scholars, thinkers, young men, students and others participated in the demonstration. They came form Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

The Iraqis will face in the post-aggressive-war stage, which may last for long years, three major problems. If they do not resort to the weapons of belief, unity and faithful work, each of these problems will attempt to kill and paralyze them and

their abilities to reconstruct their country and state. These problems are: the foreign occupation; the new Zionist influence, which has political, economic, information and social phases; and the religious and racial dissention. The last problem may destroy the Iraqi people and weaken it from inside in case the enemies succeed in driving the country into the civil war tunnel and the bog of religious and racial dissention. This is because the Mesopotamia has various sects, races and religions.

Iraq occupation and the Countries Surrounding

Permanence of a condition is impossible as they say. Thus, Saddam's age ended by the Coalition Forces, just like many other ages and thrones. They thought they would be immortal, yet they fell. Hence, dominion and authority are exchanged among people. Each age has its own state and statesmen. Will people comprehend the wisdom behind Saddam's downfall? His regime was so powerful and firm that people imagined it would last for long centuries and the yoke of his party would remain as long as the skies and earth remain. However, God's destiny is stronger than any despot, tyrannical and oppressive power and regime, whether in the west or easts, which believe that it will remain immortal.

When Arabs collaborated with the occupants to enter and invade Iraq under the pretext of liberating the people and ousting the dictator and domineering regime, , they were short-sighted if we want to trust them and their collaboration with these forces who are gluttonous for the Arab and Muslim land and treasures. In fact, they are similar to the one who uses the canon and rocket to exterminate the termite that entered the

house of one of them. It could have been better for them and all the Arabs to try to oust the regime by any means, such as a coup, a limited local war with collaboration with their neighbours to ward off the danger of the aggression, or even boycotting the Iraqi regime, as the Iranis did after the Iran-Iraq war. Any of these means could have been better than collaborating with the foreigner to destroy Iraq forever, demolish its identity, eradicate its infrastructure so that it can never stand again. Iraq, thus, will never establish its new state again except by collaborating with the foreigner. In that philosophy, they did not realize the danger of the nation's unity destruction, invitation for split in opinions and deep fall in humiliation. A time will come in which the evil Iraqis and not the good will conspire against these who surround them. They are the barbarians who are professional in looting and plundering and committing crimes. With the invaders, the looters have recruited to plunder the country and loot its money, documents, museums and universities. Just like destructive termites, which they have not been aware of, they will grow up and escalate the ladder of authority with the help of the invaders. What will they say if they fell prey to these barbarians? Are the invaders going to help them in case the new

destruction, just like the destruction of Iraq now, will serve the interests of the oppressive international power which is neither governed by law nor by agreement? Will they benefit from the international law, the UN or international legitimacy which they have supported mariginating and canceling them? This logic applies to the Kurds, who supported the Americans, as well as all the countries who supported equally the aggression and the American invasion to Iraq. A future event seems very near for the person who awaits it.

The invasion of Iraq and its great consequences will change the Arab strategy in the Middle East region, in particular, and in the whole world, in general. A democratic federal government, which represent the American policy in the region and the world, is expected in Iraq. Such a situation will remind us of the role played by Iraq during the royal rule and the administration of Noori As-Sa'eed, who was a pro-British occupants, who led the well known Baghdad Pact which was included Turkey, Iran, Jordan and Iraq. Many people expect the government in Iraq similar to that of the Shah, to play the role of the American policeman to take control over the oil basin in the Gulf, Qazween see, and east Europe and west Americas. In

addition to the iron security for Israel, Iraq will carry the American rod in the region. This may need certain requirements.

To do this role, the sea and land borders need to be increased and new ports need to be added. As a result of the contradictions and chronic crisis in the Kurdish issue and the dispersion of the Kurds among five countries around Kurdstan, namely Iraqi, Iran, Turkey, Syria and Russia, the Iraqi regime will be the most prominent governments responsible for restricting the Kurdish political role and getting round their national issue, especially their justified right to have a Kurdish state in Kurdistan and to establish a confederate government inside the new Iraqi state. Seeking good relations with Turkey and Iran goes in line with the American interests. They intend to repressing and limiting that Kurdish right, which was the reason for the separation of Kurdistan from the central regime in Baghdad in Saddam's age during the embargo after the Second Gulf War with the American encouragement and planning, What would the Kurds, and even the other Gulf states, Egypt and the other states that supported or kept silent with regard to the American to Iraq invasion under the pretext of ousting Saddam and his autocratic repressive regime say? In these great

events, consequences and catastrophes that await the Arabs and Muslims during the post-war era, we are afraid that the nation, represented by its numerous peoples and rulers will quote the old Arab proverb "Baraqish [a dog] perpetrated a crime against itself."

The planned role for Iraq as a friendly and close state to the USA, and a state that takes care of the American interests in the Middle East, just like the Shah before the coming of Khumaini in 1979, turns upside down all the political and strategic calculations. Each neighbouring country to Iraq, or even to Europe, Japan and the other Arab and Muslim states will look suspiciously at the future changes in the different scales, whether the scales of powers, of international relations or of how to treat the different old, new or future political crises and the relations of all these to the international bodies in the UN or International Security Council. As a result, the nature of the international relations and lobbies in the near future will change radically. The countries who participated in or stood watching at ousting Saddam's regime, which cannot be described as illegal in spite of all its negative characteristics, will look suspiciously and bewildered to the extent of political fear and mistrust at the

pro-American coming regime which is to be the foremost regime in protecting the American interests in the region. The relation of post-war Iraq with Israel will also be contradictory between the Arab leaders and their peoples. How things be in the near future? Are things going to turn upside down for the states which allied with the USA? Are they going to look for another role that might be accepted by the new international balance, especially in the Arab region and particularly around Israel? These are questions and apprehensions that the countries neighbouring Iraq and the countries surrounding Israel need to as themselves and try to answer them so that they may pass the difficult coming text after the aggression against Iraq and its invasion.

Arab and Martyrdom-Seeking Fidaiyyin

After the beginning of the war against Iraq and as a result of the international sympathy shown towards it in addition to the Arab and Islamic anger and condemnation of the aggression, groups of martyrdom-seeking Fidaiyyin started to pour in Iraq from the Syrian borders. Most of them were Syrians and the others were from different Arab nationalities, such Yemeni, Palestinian. Jordanian, Gulf, Saudi, Lebanese, Egyptian, Algerian, Moroccan and other Arab and Muslim Mujahideen. The announced number of these was 6000 Arab Fidaiyyin. However, eyewitnesses estimate their number to be more that. These Fidaiyyin were very zealous to fight. In the first three weeks, they fought shoulder to shoulder with the people and the Iraqi Fidaiyyin.

We can assure that out of the 6000 Fidaiyyin who poured in the country during the war to defend Iraq, its people and land from the desecration of the invaders, nearly more than two-thirds of that number were martyred all along the Iraqi battlefield from Basra to Mosul. It is also possible to estimate the number of martyrs in cities and towns. Nearly one thousand

were martyred in the Battles of Nasiriyya and Basra. A thousand were martyred in Najaf, Karbala' and Hilla. A third thousand were martyred in Baghdad in the last Battles, especially in Mansour, Adhamiyya, 'Amiriyya, airport, Taji, and other heroic battles which lasted for many days after announcing the ousting of the regime.

It is really painful to state that certain cowards, especially those who were related to the previous regime started to feel annoyed with the resistance of these seekers of martyrdom, whether Arabs or Iraqis, who kept on resisting till after Saturday, April 12, in a number of the quarters of Baghdad. Some of these started to hand them over to the Coalition Forces for very cheap price, or they might threaten them to quit fighting and leave to where they had come from. Contrast to these acts, most of the people backed that heroic movement of seeking martyrdom in Baghdad and the other governorates. They used to offer them food, beds and weapons. These heroes used mosques as their headquarters from which they launch their attacks against the occupants., especially in Adhamiyya, 'Amiriyya and Mansour. When the possibility to resist deteriorated, Baghdad became nearly occupied and the invaders

started to deploy in every ally and place in Baghdad, honest people started to help in transferring them to the western borders via Baghdad-Ramadi-Rutba-Qa'im highway.

A trustworthy eyewitness, who was in one of the places where they used to gather in Baghdad, told me that when some of them where given weapons they refused to take them and demanded to be given explosive belts instead. He quoted one of these martyrdom-seeking Arabs as saying that after they had gathered in Baghdad, photographed by the Iraq media, exposed in front of the foreign and Arab satellite channels journalists and correspondents, and after the information task ended, they were left alone. No official remained with them to direct or prepare them for fighting. Most of them were young men in their twenties. Some were 70 years old and others were boys of no more than 14 years old. One of these boys was smuggled via the borders, without his family notice. When his mother knew, she followed him to Baghdad. Yet, he hid from her from one group to another. He also mentioned that there were very few spies among them, a Jordanian was mentioned.

While fighting, the martyrdom-seeking Fidaiyyin show unique heroic acts. One of them opened the door of the tank,

threw himself inside it and exploded himself and the aggressive tank's cadre. Another one threw a launcher at the tank, then another and when his ammunition finished, he threw his body on it. Eyewitnesses said that a group of 100 in Nasiriyya-Basra highway,wrecked 40 tanks in one only. Those who accompanied them mentioned that they could be made examples of obedience and discipline. They were so simple and indifferent to life, that one of them might fight for two days while his food was a peace of dry bread put in his pocket. One of those who accompanied them mentioned that when one of them was martyred, his smell will be that of musk. He added that twenty days after the Fidaiy martyrdom, he still found that smell in his nose. When they were buried, it was noticed that each martyr was making with his forefinger the sign of unifying God.

The Iraqi administration of these fighters failed completely. Most of them were received in the borders. Some came by themselves. Then they were collected in As-Sadeer Hotel and their names were put down routinely. Their passports were taken from them and put in a special safe body. Finally, after the ousting of the regime, the American came and took

hold of these lists and passports, or most of them and used them as major proofs and means to follow and search for them.

In the beginning of the war, the Iraqis transferred and distributed them without a strategy or a clear plan. The moved from one list to another and from one cam to another. They let them know that Iraq did not need them except for giving the Iraqi moral support. For many times, these Fidaiyyin were shot in the camps. When they refused to go to the camps and went to the battlefield, they let without guides, leaders or field plan to their guerilla actions. When they demanded to be given these, the military officers used to answer them, "Your are martyrdom-seeking Fidaiyyin. Here is the enemy in front of you." Then they would leave them alone.

I was told many stories and I quote many eyewitnesses as saying, lots of the Fidaiyyin came on foot from Samawa, Najaf and Karbala to Baghdad especially during the third week of the war when turmoil started in the southern cities after the arrival of the Coalition Forces to Baghdad. Many of them were shot from behind, and most of the Fidaiyyin were shot from behind. They said that in the airport Battle, one of them shot an American tank and set it in fire, so he cried "Allahu Akbar"

[Allah is greatest]. Then, a coward shot him from behind and killed him.

After the downfall of Baghdad, people, though few in number, got irritated from their presence and considered them the cause of their trouble. They wanted to get rid of them, by informing against them, ousting them or saying harsh word to them. As for the majority of the Iraqis, they were generous with them, helped them to hide or escape. People said that after the downfall of Baghdad, two women in Haifa Street in Baghdad hid a number of Fidaiyyin and then smuggled them when the Coalition Forces took hold of Baghdad. In Anbar, people did everything they could afford to the Fidaiyyin and took them to the borders near Al-Qa'im town. More than 1500 martyrdom-seeking fighters were smuggled from Baghdad to the western desert.

Surrendering Phenomenon:

Flying White Flags on Houses and Cars

Immediately after the downfall of Baghdad, some people flew white flags on their cars and houses. It is worth mentioning that most of those who did so to show their resignation to the occupying forces were people who forsook fighting, cowards and henchmen of the ousted regime. The noble and brave went on rejecting the occupation and condemning invasion till the very end, and those were the majority. Many demonstrations, which denounced the occupation, looting and plundering, that were encouraged by the invaders, cowardice and surrender, broke. One of the demonstrations that took place in Baghdad was that of Adhamiyya, which started after the Friday noon prayer on Friday, April 18. It condemned the occupation and destruction from which the country suffered. It also called for forming an Islamic government which was to be neither Sunnite nor Shi'ite, but to embrace everybody to reconstruct order and life in the afflicted country. Prior to that demonstration, a large one took place on Thursday afternoon, April 17, in which a large group of

Shi’ite religious scholars and thinkers from Kadhimiyya participated along with Sunnite religious scholars from Adhamiyya. the demonstrators met at Al-A’imma Bridge and then united and marched together till Antar Square. Other daily demonstrations broke since Sunday, April 13, opposite the Meridian Hotel, where the Coalition Forces leadership, pressmen, journalists, international satellite channels centres in Baghdad are positioned. I participated in the demonstrations on Sunday and Monday, April 13-14, which denounced the aggression and occupation and demanded the Coalition Forces to get out of Iraq.

The People with the Elephant

“Did not you see how the Lord dealt with the People with the Elephant? Did He not make their treacherous plan go astray? And He sent against them flights of birds, striking them with stones of baked clay. Then He made them like an empty field of stalks and straw, [of which the corn] has been eaten up.” (Al-Feel Sura).

It is well-known that the Republican Party to which President Bush and his present administration belong, is the party that supported the project of launching the war against Iraq. It is the one which circulated the ideas of exporting American democracy outside the USA, supporting globalization and Americanizing the world. The Zionist lobby has been the greatest instigating, motivating and effective power to these American colonizing inclinations. It has also been the biggest benefiting party from invading Iraq. Moreover, it is well known that the emblem of the Republican Party is the elephant. Thus, they are the People of the Elephant nowadays in America. The same emblem connects them to the Abyssinian People of the Elephant at the time in which the Prophet was born. Both have

one emblem, viz., the elephant, both committed the crime of invasion and aggression against the Arabs and the Muslim sacred things. The Abyssinian Abraham was the counterpart of Bush. The invasion of Mecca by the army of Abraha, which was highly equipped with weapons, soldiers and mercenaries, was the counterpart of the Coalition Forces and the armies of Bush and Blair which were equipped with the most developed technological prohibited and non-prohibited weapons. Both crossed seas and oceans motivated by colonizing thoughts

By means of different, pretexts, excuses, misinformation and psychological war, the Coalition Forces onrushed patient Iraq to attain their malignant aim of occupying Iraq, plundering its treasures, and fastening it to the carriage of the new international system which is led by America. Everyone who played the role of the guide to facilitate the American invasion was playing the role of Abu Righal. When Abdul-Muttalib, the Messenger's (may the blessing and peace of God be upon him) grandfather, prince of Mecca and the leader of Quraish tribe at that time, asked Abraha to give him back his camels, Abraha said, "You're a dotard old man. I thought you have come to request me do thing concerning Mecca, to defend it or to request

not to destroy it or the Ka'ba." "I am the lord of the camels," Abdul-Muttalib answered, "The house has its Lord Who will defend it." Abraha laughed and made fun of his convinced belief and strange viewpoint to the protection of the Ancient House, the Ka'ba of God on earth. After few hours, horror and fear started to overwhelm Abraha's army, for they saw the flights of birds striking them with stones that divide each one of them into two pieces. As a result, Abrah and his army died.

Similarly, God Almighty was with the Iraqis in resisting their enemy. What befell the army of Bush in the first weak of the war after the sand storm blasted away his spoiled army in the desert for three days. It destroyed and wrecked their instruments, radars and tools. They were encircled by suffocating circular eddies of air and stand storms which reminded the Iraqis of the exceedingly violent winds that God had sent to the infidels who were besieging Medina. The storm destroyed their forces and even their pots that they were forced to lift their siege around Medina. The Iraqis tried to benefit from those godly storms and transported their army, Republican Guards and Fidaiyyin between Baghdad and the southern battlefields. That military transportation was a golden chance to

inflict great losses against the army and to fortify the Iraqi defending forces in Basra, Nasiriyya, Najaf, Hilla, Kut and around Baghdad. After inflicting great losses against the enemy, the Americans started to think seriously of reviewing their plans and changing them radically. That happened actually later on when they over-used the prohibited weapons in the last wars of Baghdad. They created an information cover to hide their crime and weakness by diminishing the role of the neutral media. They wanted to tell the world that Iraq surrendered without fighting to disfigure the heroic image of the Iraqi people. But, no way, God Who has defeated the army of Abraha and granted victory to the people of Mecca against the People with the Elephant is greater and more powerful than the Coalition Forces. He will grant victory to this great people over the gluttonous invaders, though a period of time may pass before this may happen. God has made the great victories in Um Qasr, Fao, Basra, Nasiriyya, Samawa, Najaf, Baghdad and Anbar tangible signs for His promise to grant victory to the truthful and believers in His promise and victory when He wills. He has told us this in the Sura of Al-Feel [the Elephant] and many other verses in His Glorious Quran.

Stormy War

This oppressive and unjust war, in which America has ventured upon God and humanity and slaughtered legitimacy, is a stormy war in every respect. Everybody who has participated in its preparation, its financing and offering facilities will be guilty of its sin. This barbarian and destructive war, which has lacked legitimacy and morals, has stormed the bases of the international system and international, Muslim and Arab organizations which looks so feeble and lifeless and powerless in front of the American tyranny and arrogance who has wanted to open the gate of Iraq for controlling over the world and the peoples' nations and resources all over the world. The UN and ISC roles are finished. They have neither roles nor effective powers in the coming events or in the future international problems. Now, they are paralyzed and they cannot activate their resolutions or force nations to abide by them. This is because America has ignored them when it struck and invaded Iraq. This war has stormed the America, its democracy and adages. It also stormed its respect for human rights, for sovereignties of states, for adherence to the international law, for pacts of international organizations, especially the Charter of

the UN and ISC, and finally, for free international mass media. The war has exposed the imperialistic and colonizing spirit, which is deeply-rooted in the hearts of its presidents, leaders and institutions.

The war has also stormed the credibility of the American civilization and democracy. Moreover, it has stormed its ability to convince the civilized world to follow the American example, which has lost its legitimacy and credibility in its call for democracy and respect for human rights inside America after the 11 September events and outside America after striking Iraq. The American civilization, new international system and globalization are in their weakest condition and ability to convince the world of the importance of their principles. The American effective individual power retreated in front of the barbarian sense it imposed when dealing with states and crises which are treated arbitrarily. What a loss for the American civilization and what a dark and deep deterioration for the American approach and its consequences after this illegitimate war which stormed all the good principles in human civilization. It is the stage of Man's deterioration and his barbarian viewpoint of politics and economy, religion and society. It is a

return to piracy and the law of the jungle which overwhelmed Europe in the wild Middle Ages. This is the greatest American crime in the wake of the 21st century which has pushed it towards colonizing, arrogance and oppression. America has been instigated by the evil Zionist mentality which aims to dominate the world by the American octopus and unjust example.

This war stormed Saddam and his dictator and fossilized regime. Saddam wanted to be the Pharaoh of his age and to deify himself instead of God, whether he was aware of that or not. It also stormed his party which was more rotten than himself. For more than 30 years, he ruled the country savagely, oppressed and enslaved the people according to the repressive one-party theory. Saddam and his party exchanged the spirit of innovation, action and challenge, with that opportunist one, when loyalty to Saddam was not based on trust, efficiency and experience. As a result, administrative corruption, bribes, thefts, murders of the true, active and creative minds took place. Consequently, those minds emigrated to where God wills in search for security, means of living and freedom. The bitter and the expected result was the defeat of the regime and its party.

The Americans expected that the fall would take place during the first days of the war, but for the originality of the Iraqi people, their potential morals, love for their country and religion which drove them to fight the foreign occupation, the downfall was delayed, or in fact, was altered to victory. The Americans could not see their dreams coming to life except by using the nuclear and prohibited mass-destructive weapons.

Two of the four weeks of the war were in favour of the Iraqi people, in which the Americans tasted the bitter taste of defeat, in the third week, the Americans were forced to resort to the alternative plan of shock and horror, to dirty means and to prohibited weapons. The fourth week was dedicated to looting, plundering, destroying and burning committed by the gangs of looters and plunderers. Those gangs came from inside and outside the country with the help and encouragement of the occupying forces. These forces wanted to avenge themselves of the people, to destroy their infrastructure, documents, books, museums, universities and schools exactly as Hulagu and his Mongol army did seven centuries ago in the Abbasid Baghdad.

At that time, the waters of the Tigris were polluted with the blue colour of the ink of the books and the red colour of

martyrs' blood. How similar today is to yesterday. Bush is the counterpart of Hulagu. The American barbarians are similar to the Mongol ones. In both cases, the people of Iraq were deprived and poor. Saddam's wealth has no equivalent other than that of Al-Musta'sim and his filled treasures. The opportunists, traitors and corrupted retinue were also the same in both times. The present ones were the grandsons of the previous ones who collaborated with Hulagu to downfall Baghdad and Ar-Rasheed's civilization.

This war has blasted all the oppressive and traitor Arab leaders. They will see the effect of this storm, which will shake the pillars of their reign in the near future. This is because they do not have the sense and ability to develop and understand the Arabs and their cares, to respect the individual Arab, to get nearer to him and to know his feeling and pains.

The consequences of the war will blast the fragile forms of rule and their subjection to the foreigner and their inability to free themselves from its Yoke. The war will blast these regimes' formal actions which are inactive in the Arab field. What happens now in Palestine and what has happened in Iraq are the best indicators to the Arab regimes and leaders' failure to

confront the challenge posed by the wild Zionist colonizing attack for which invading Iraq has been the starting point.

This war has also stormed the Islamic, national and secular parties and organizations. Nobody can imagine what may befall any Arab of Islamic state in the Zionist American giant turns to it under the pretext of terrorism, liberating, or democracy, or any other claim that the enemy use as pretexts to fight and destroy the nation.

It is the stormy war which leaves nothing to anybody: no power, no independence and no sovereignty. Nobody will have control over his money, honor, land or country. It is the war of the devil against the peoples and countries of the world. It is against every good, God-loving, honest and free man who believes in justice, welfare, and freedom and who wants people to live as their Creator wants them to do: as nations, peoples and tribes. These have different opinions and ideas so that they know each other cooperate to build a human civilization on earth. Yet, the followers of the devil may not allow for this to happen. God Almighty says "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you

may despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (Al-Hujurat, 13)

What could be the true aims of the American campaign against Iraq? What could the true motives be? Are they to dominate its treasures, on top of which is oil, red mercury, uranium, sulfur, phosphate and other valuable minerals? It is well known that Iraq has the second largest reservoir in the world; moreover, Iraqi oil is considered one of the best oils in the world.

Could the main objective be to acquire the strategic national Israeli security and obtain the suitable situation for the major changes in the policy of normalization and in the Arab-Israeli peace policy according to the mechanism in which the Americans and Zionists want to impose on the Arabs in the coming stage? Thus, they may acquire political stability for Israel, activate the Middle Eastern market with Israeli leadership and American supervision.

Could the secret strategic and most important objective be to enclose the unified European Pole or, probably, Russia, in particular, which has lost the Cold War after the dissection of the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact early in the 1990s. The Iraqi war is nothing but a new and a developed stage in the Cold War, which has not ended yet, from the American point of view. As a result, America may destroy the arsenal of the nuclear and strategic rockets which threaten America. Now, it is not enough for America to be on the top of the great states, it looks for autocratic leadership of the world and complete domination over its resources by means of the principles of globalization and the new international system. This can be attained after it has opened the gate for Americanism, dissected the UN and cancelled its role and imposed illegitimacy. These will definitely be important and rapid consequences of the Iraqi war.

Iraq, in this perspective, is not an objective in itself, just like Afghanistan and Kusovo, but it is a political and military means to enclose Russia and Europe with a dangerous security belt formed by Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, Kusovo and Israel. The moment an America forms a pact with these countries, which surround Russia and Europe, and it completes its

domination over the international economy through the role played by oil, Europe, and especially Russia, will fall in the trap. Unified Europe will never have power after implementing this strategy.

There could be other numerous objectives, but we believe that the artifice of evil and the devil will remain feeble for Glorified God, His cannons and laws which construct nations and civilizations and destroy others in accordance with the godly law of causes and effects, will be in ambush for this great evil. After the war, the world has realized that America will try to use the White Bull[5] wisdom and the policy of biting to win over its opponents in the world one after the other.

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[5] The is a fable that says, "A lion comes to a field and sees three bulls, white, red and black, grazing there. He approaches the red and black bulls and says, "Let me eat the white bull and you'll have all the field to yourselves. A field divided to two bulls is better than dividing it among three." The two bulls agree and let the lion eat the white one. The second day the lion approaches the black bull and says, "Why don't you let me eat the red bull and you'll have all the field for you to graze. Why should you have half the field only?" Again, the black bull agrees. In the third day, the lion comes to the black bull and says, "Now I'll eat you. Nobody will protect you from me." Only then, the bull regrets what it has done and that the other bulls are not with him to fight the lion together. So it says, "I was eaten when the white bull was eaten." [the translator].

Notorious for its misinformation, lies and deceptions the American media will try its best to deform all the facts that may expose the weakness in the arrogant and oppressive American policy. It will form the integrated American image the USA wants to market in the world. The most important facts of this war it will aim to obliterate and deform are the facts concerning the heroic resistance of the Iraqi people and their challenge to the mentality of invasion, occupation autocracy and hegemony. All the Iraqis, who come from different sects, races and religions, participated in that resistance. For more than twenty days, the Iraqi people were able to confront the two greatest aggressive powers, who came to invade and occupy Iraq under repeated and clearly false pretexts. They planned for a long lasting occupation and colonizing. One of the facts that has revealed the falsehood of this campaign against Iraq was that they have not found the mass destructive weapons as the Americans announced few days ago. They did not liberate Iraq: they exchanged the autocratic regime they supported for the last twenty years, with chaos, disturbance, lack of security and lack of order. After ousting the regime, they encouraged and let free organized looting, plundering, burning and destroying of Iraq's heritage, possessions and documents. Now, however, they

announce without shame or remorse that, officially, the war has not ended yet and that they will build four American military bases in Iraq: one in Nasiriyya or Shi'ayba to the south of Iraq, a second one in Baghdad near the airport, a third one in Habbaniyya to the west of Iraq and a fourth one in Kurdistan to the north of Iraq. The American President Bush has appointed five American officials to directly run the administrative affairs. These are the retired general Jay Garner, director of the Office for Reconstruction and Human Aids; Zelmay Khalil Zada, consultant and commanding official of elections in Iraq; Barbara, the commanding official Baghdad and the middle of Iraq; Burner, the civil leader and, finally, General Tommy Francs, the military leader of Iraq. They give artful promises to all the groups of the Iraqi people, gatherings and parties, but they never fulfil these promises. Some of these parties have been brought by the Americana and they demanded other to form other organizations and parties. As for the groups and parties, which do actually represent the people, they are so weak that they can hardly defend themselves, so how can they form a government and rule the country.

The American media directed against this patient people has not left a single detail without attempting to reconstruct it according to prejudiced and deceptive viewpoints in order to reconstruct the minds and spirits in accordance with the American plans and interests in the region. Thus, it will be able to build the new eternal Israeli strategy for security. One of the details that this media take into consideration is that it started to raise doubts concerning the stories of heroism, withstanding, resistance and challenge of this original and believing people. Even the story of the Iraqi farmer, who shot down the Abatchi with his small arm, has not been ignored. The media said that it was a false story: Saddam's aides had told that poor farmer to fabricate it and promised to give him a reward which had never received. They also claimed that the one who appeared in Baghdad's allies on Sunday, April 6, was not the real Saddam, but his double. Also, it claimed that only 126 American soldiers were killed, and not thousands of soldiers. It is accustomed to fabricating such lies and similar ones to misinform its people.

On Thursday, May 1, Bush announced, while he was on the American aircraft carrier, Abraham Lincoln, in California, the end of the major military operations of the Coalition Forces

in Iraq after they have attained the aims specified for them. Yet, for political reasons and in order to avoid any legal, political or international consequences that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and 1977 about wars and the conditions related to ending them, and to consolidate his position in the coming American elections, he did not take a decision to stop the war in Iraq.

This illegal war lasted for 43 days. Its leaders and the ones who planned it failed in attaining their objectives in the blitz krieg and shock and horror plan to occupy Iraq and end the war within a week. Thus, they were compelled to use prohibited means against Iraq to betray and stab it in the back. Its sovereignty and land were usurped. As a result, more than 100000 civilians and militants were martyred, half of them were killed by prohibited mass-destructive weapons. In this war, more than 50000 Iraqis were wounded, and 20000 were taken prisoners, 10000 of them were civilians from the townsmen and Iraqi tribesmen who resisted heroically the occupation and withstood the invasion and aggression. As for the Coalition Forces, which tried to mislead the international and, especially, American public opinions, they announced that their losses were 150 killed soldiers and 300 wounded. The truth, as

eyewitnesses and analysts asserted was that their killed soldiers had exceeded 20000 soldiers from the mercenaries, marines and American army. There were also more than 30000 wounded soldiers who filled the German, English, Spanish and Australian hospitals and hospitals of other countries that allied with them. Hundreds of helicopters, tanks, carriers, tools, machines, which were brought from the Gulf to destroy this peaceful country, were destroyed. The Coalition Forces bombed and shelled Iraq with more than two-thirds of the American strategic reservoir of rockets, thousands of tons of bombs, explosives and new destructive weapons which were brought and tested on the Iraqi people. What is unknown could even be greater than these numbers.

In spite of the repressive information, preventing the neutral media and restricting its movement, the honest journalists, pressmen and authors have disclosed lots of the facts. The near and far future will expose the Zionist American falsehood and their attempt to rob the Iraqis of their heroic challenge, resistance and generous sacrifices which they offered willingly to defend their country.

President Bush, who imagined that the war would be an excursion and a blitz krieg, will find it no more than a wide bog in which he and his aides have been entangled. He will not reap the fruits he planned to get, whether on the Iraqi land or in the political international field. Bush's trespass on international legitimacy will be a disgraceful thing in the history of the American civilized nation. God, history, the American people and the world will condemn Bush, sooner or later, when the world discloses the dimensions of this conspiracy and injustice that has befallen Iraq and the world. The pragmatic principle in which Bush and his party believe will overturn on him and his people. Illegal policy and pragmatic power result in calamities which will overtake and weaken America such as the following: its esteem will diminish and its states will be torn into fighting states and towns as a result of the political and economic breakdown. At that time Bush and his Zionist aides will realize that power lies in truth and the true principles and not the vice versa. The Zionist approach emphasizes in its literature that might is right and might lies in gold whether the yellow or black (oil) one. This is the reason that has brought them to this slippery bog which has brought down the principles of legitimacy. However, gold will turn the world in the wake of

the twenty-first century into a jungle in which the strong and despots, who worship money, desires and the devil, fight for gold.

After this unjust war, the future will reveal whether these expectations and political consequences are true or false and how well will they apply to reality. God Almighty says, “for the scum disappears like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth.” (Ar-Ra’d, 17).

To accomplish this research and fieldwork, I moved to meet eyewitnesses and those who follow the course of events; I crossed the streets, allies and establishments of Baghdad which were stormed by this war. They cried to be saved from the crimes of the occupants and their aggression on lives, money and possessions. Spies, cowards, traitors as well as looters and marauders from the gangs of looting and plundering who did not bother to assassinate the country, loot it and destroy its civilization. In the Day of Judgment, streets, allies and establishments will witness to having seen the actions of these aggressors.

Finally, I pray to God Almighty to accept this work and let it be done solely, without any secular aim or intention, for His Glorious Face. May God endow it with blessings and goodness so that it spreads the spirit of challenge in this people. May He spread awareness of and trust in this people's ability to resist and defend their country and their rights when they confront the evil gluttonous. May God make us among those who hear the speech and follow the best of it, He is the Best to protect and the Best to help.

Our last prayer is praise be to God, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the worlds.

The book was finished in:

Rabee' Al-Awwal 12, 1424 AH correspond. to May 13, 2003.

The Author

He was born in 1954. His family, lived in Bab Ash-Sheik quarter in Baghdad. The family's name, Al-Mudarris [the teacher], belongs to the author's great grandfather Abdul-Fattah Al-Mudarris who used to teach Hanafi Fiqh in Al-Qadiri Mosque in the middle of the 19th century

He graduated from high school in Baqooba in 1972. In 1976, he got his B. Sc. in electrical engineering from the College of Engineering of the University of Baghdad. He worked as an engineer, then he became the director of the Maintenance and Services Office in one of the establishments of the Ministry of Manufacturing and Minerals till his retirement in 1992.

He dedicated 25 years for historical and Quranic researches and studies. In the field of unifying the Muslims and bringing different religious sects nearer to each other, he wrote tens of historical and Islamic papers in Iraqi newspapers and journals such as "Al-Mufakkir Al-Islami" journal, "Al-Kawthar" journal, "Ar-Ra'I" journal and "Al-Furat" newspaper.

He wrote more than 40 books which were published in Baghdad, Amman, Doha, Damascuse, Bierute and Cairo..

The most important of these books are the following:

1. The Quranic Phenomenon and the Mind. (Az-Zahira Al-Quraniyya wa Al-‘Aql). Baghdad: Matba’at Al-‘Ani, 1986.

2. Shared Ancestors and Marriages among the Prophet’s Household and His Companions. {An-Nasab wa Al-Musahara bayn Ahl Al-Bayt wa As-Sahaba). Baghdad 1998; Doha, 1999; Amman: Dar Al-‘Amal, 2000, Cairo 2005.

3. The Medium Nation. (Al-Umma Al-Wasat). Baghdad: Dar Al-Kutub Al-Ilmiyya, 1997; Amman: Dar ‘Ammar, 1999

4. The Great Conspiracy in Early Islam. (Al-Mu’amara Al-Kubra fi Sadr Al-Islam). Baghdad: Dar Al-Anbar, 1999.

5. The Scattered Jewels from the Traditions of the Prophet’s Household and Companions. (Ad-Dur Al-Manthur min ’Ahl Al-Bayt wa As-Sahaba). Baghdad: 1999; Amman: Dar ‘Ammar, 1999.

6. An-Najaf Conference: A Modern Quranic Critical Perceptive. (Mu’tamar An-Najaf: Ru’ya Qur’aniyya Mu‘asira). Baghdad, 2000; Amman 2001.

7. Umar and Al-Husayn: Two Faces for One Original Islamic Approach. (‘Umar wa Al-Husayn Wajhan li Manhaj Islami Aseel). Baghdad, 2000; Amman: Dar Al-Amal, 2001.

8. As-Safawi Vs. Ottoman Dispute and Its Effect on Crystallizing Sectarianism. Baghdad: Matba‘at Ma‘roof, 2001.

9. Miraculous Scientific Evidences in the Quran and Sunna. (Al-I‘jaz Al-‘Ilmi fi Al-Qur’an wa As-Sunna. Baghdad: Maktabat Ar-Raqeem, 2001.

10. Quranic Figures in the Follower’s Age. (Shakhsiyyat Qur’aniyya fi Asr At-Tabi‘een). Baghdad, 2002.

11. Under the Ashes of the Stormy War: Secrets of the Iraqi War. Baghdad:2003.

12. Third World Isthmus: Memories of a Prisoner in a Abysmal Place. (Barzakh Al-Alam Ath-Thalith: Muthakkarat Sajeen fi Alam Saheeq). Baghdad, 2003.

Membership of Societies and Unions

1. Member of the Iraqi Engineers' Union, no. 12535, 1976.

2. Member of the Arab Historians Union since 1998.

3. Member of the General Union of Men of Letters and Writers in Iraq since 1999.

4. Member of Iraqi Belletristic Society since 2001.

5. Member of the Islamic Literature Society, Baghdad.

6. Member of Unifying and Bringing Closer the Different Islamic Sects, Iraq.

7. Member of the Miraculous Scientific Evidences in the Quran and Sunna Group, Ash-Sharq Institute, Baghdad.

8. Member of International Forum For Moderation/ Amman since 2007.

9. Member of Iraqi constitutional assembly since 2004.

رقم الايداع في دار الكتب والوثائق ببغداد ١٦٩٧ لسنة ٢٠١١م

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